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Champion
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Nursery joy at 'outstanding' Ofsted report

Post office targeted by armed raiders

ARSON SUSPECTED IN CASTLEHEY HOUSE BLAZE

No casualties this time but fire chief says lives could have been lost

Report by **Henry James**

THE Fire Service are treating a blaze at a terraced house at Castlehey, Skelmersdale as arson and have said that lives could have been lost if the incident had taken place in the middle of the night.

A total of 20 firefighters and eight police officers were involved in dealing with the blaze at around 3.48pm on Friday, March 30.

And an emergency service presence was maintained at the scene for nearly 24 hours until the physical investigation and security measures had been dealt with.

Incident commander, watch manager, Chris Taylor, stated: "Thankfully, there were no casualties this time. If the same fire had taken place in the middle of the night, the outcomes could have been a lot more serious.

"Fortunately, deliberate fires such as this are a rarity, but householders should still do everything they can to ensure their properties are secure and items are not left outside that could be ignited."

Crews approaching the scene could see a large plume of smoke from quite a distance and were met with a well-developed fire in the terraced house.

The first crew forced entry and a breathing apparatus team was deployed to tackle the fire and search for occupants.

There were no people found inside, but there was a large fire on the ground floor and heavy smoke-logging throughout.

Neighbours either side were forced to evacuate, as the smoke had spread into their homes via the common roof void and through windows.

Ventilation fans were used to assist the firefighting effort and to clear smoke from all three properties.

Fire crews at the scene

The crew extinguished the fire after about half-an-hour and preserved the scene to enable a thorough investigation by Fire Service specialists, police and Crime Scene Investigators.

Initial findings indicate that the fire was started deliberately and the police are following leads to identify the culprits.

Although there were no casualties, the fire did cause severe damage to one house and moderate damage to two others.

It is believed that the fire had been burning for more than 20 minutes before being discovered by a neighbour.

E Rooms to take part in Big Gig Project

THE E Rooms in Skelmersdale is taking part in The Big Gig Project to create two events of live entertainment targeted at young people and created by young people.

Both events will be staged at the venue in Westgate this summer.

One project will be aimed at under-16s and will either be a daytime or early evening event.

The second will be held in the evening and targeted at those aged 16 to 19.

Steve Horrocks from the E Rooms said: "The purpose of the project is to involve young people to participate in the design and creation of these two events.

"They will be expected to participate in free weekly group work sessions funded by Lancashire County Council where the groups will learn about how to create a live music event.

"And they will be involved in booking the live bands and or DJ,s; creating posters; designing how they want their event to look; organising the advertising and the promotion, including designing posters and a social media event page; and helping out with the sound and lighting and stage management at the events.

Challenged

"We aim to provide a safe place for young people to meet up and enjoy an evening of live entertainment which has been planned by young people, aimed at young people.

"The participants will develop their skills by embarking on a journey which will encourage and develop their own creativity while being challenged during the project to think creatively and work together as a team."

Limited places will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Bookings can be made now by ringing on 01695 731016 or by email to ste@erooms.org.uk.

Sessions will run weekly from 6 to 7pm on Mondays, starting on April 16.

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Thursday talks date set in bid to resolve long-running rail row over guards role

Report by **Henry James**

MERSEYRAIL has confirmed that independent conciliation talks are going to be held between themselves and the RMT union on Thursday (April 5) in a bid to bring an end to the year-long dispute over guards on trains.

During the last year strikes have been held by rail staff opposed to the planned introduction of the new driver-only fleet of trains in 2020.

The guards have been promised new roles by Merseyrail, but RMT believe that the role of guards is "safety critical."

The last consultative talks between RMT and Merseyrail were back in mid-2017.

In November last year Liverpool City Mayor, Joe Anderson and Metro Mayor, Steve Rotherham called for "independent conciliation" between Merseyrail and the RMT in an open letter sent to both organisations.

A Merseyrail spokesman said: "Passengers, business leaders, politicians and residents across the City Region now have a clear stated position from the RMT and that it will willingly work with Merseyrail through independent conciliation, as recommended by the Metro Mayor, in finding an outcome to this dispute."

RMT general secretary, Mick Cash, said: "Merseyrail wrote to RMT on March 19 stating for the first time in this dispute that they will enter into talks accepting that the outcome may be a second person on every train.

"Merseyrail's previous refusal of this option even being on the table had been the blocking point for any talks taking place for the last 10 months.

"The company contacted ACAS that day and later that evening RMT agreed a draft Terms Of Reference with the conciliator, and have stood ready to enter talks since then. Despite two weeks inexplicable delay, talks are now finally set to take place.

"RMT welcomes this development, and the union will seek to examine all possibilities of how the parties can bring about the realisation of the option to have a second person on every train.

"To that end we call upon the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and its Transport Committee to allow Merseyrail Electrics to freely negotiate a settlement of this dispute in line with the wishes of the vast majority of the passengers using the system, who clearly wish to see a second person on all of the new trains."

A computer generated image of what the new Merseyrail trains will look like

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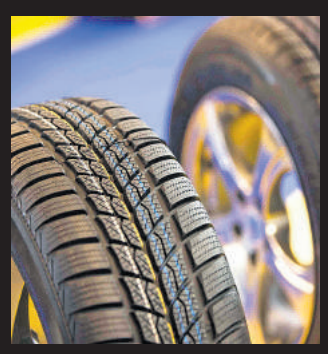

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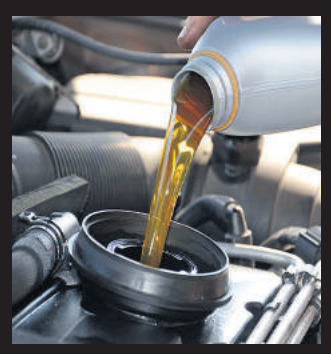

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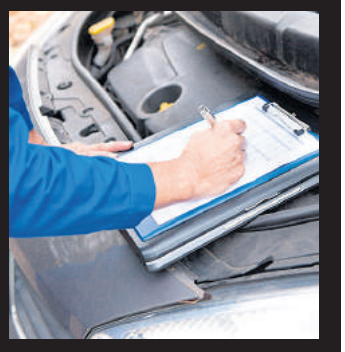

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Armed raid terror at post office

Duo flee empty-handed after staff sound alarm

Report by **Henry James**

POLICE are appealing for information after an attempted armed robbery at the Post Office in Digmoor, Skelmersdale on Tuesday, March 27.

Officers were called at 10.10am to reports that two men had entered the premises on Digmoor Parade and made demands for money.

The pair originally approached from Christ the Servant church and walked around Birkrig before reaching the premises.

They entered the Post Office and were carrying what is believed to be a handgun and a machete.

The shop assistant sounded an alarm and the offenders ran from the scene empty-handed in the direction of Christ the Servant church.

The offenders are described as white men, in their 20s who spoke with local accents. They were wearing dark clothing and one was carrying a black Nike rucksack with white writing on it.

Police are now appealing for witnesses and have identified two people they want to speak to as potential witnesses.

Detective Inspector Graeme Simpson of Lancashire Police, said: "This was obviously a terrifying incident for the staff and members of public who were in the Post Office at the time.

"Luckily nobody was harmed but we need to find those responsible. We would like to speak to anyone who witnessed the attempted robbery or saw anything suspicious in the area around the time.

Digmoor Post Office

"We would also appeal to anybody who may have been driving in the area at the time who has a dashboard cam to check the footage."

Anyone with information is asked to contact police on 01695 566112, or call 101 quoting log number 361 of 27th March.

Alternatively independent charity Crimestoppers can be contacted anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Men-Aces stalwart Harry is on the ball with £5,000 boost for heart charity

A MEMBER of the Skem Men-Aces disability football team has scored a memorable charity 'goal'.

Harry Eaton, brother of Men-Aces manager, Carl, has been selling £1 pin badges on behalf of the British Heart Foundation for the past two years and has now raised an incredible £5,000 for the charity.

Harry Eaton, who has severe learning disabilities and is supported in his home by Mencap, does voluntary work for the BHF at their charity shop in the Concourse shopping centre in Skelmersdale.

Proud brother, Carl, said: "Harry has been at the BHF for the last two years, working three-hour shifts on three days a week. He's incredibly dedicated.

"He has single-handedly managed to raise an incredible £5,000 in that time - a remarkable achievement when you consider Harry's own personal issues.

"Despite all that he has to go through in his life, he is always willing to help and support those less fortunate than himself. It's a wonderful gift to be able to give something back despite adversity."

Harry has also raised several hundred pounds over the years for his beloved Skem Men-Aces.

Harry Eaton

'Doubled bill' shock was down to clerical error!

A SKELMERSDALE resident got a nasty shock when she opened her latest bill for annual service charges for her flat from West Lancs Council to find it had apparently gone up from £395 to £603 - a whopping 53% rise!

It was only after Joan Britton, who lives in a flat at Whitburn and has been a leaseholder since 2004, contacted the Champion about the massive 'increase' and we phoned the council that a clerical error was confirmed.

A spokesman for the borough council commented: "The council has apologised to Mrs Britton for any inconvenience caused and pointed out there was a clerical error with her bill, including a charge which was higher than it should have been.

"She has been informed of the amended charge and will be sent a revised bill to confirm this."

Tim's model exhibition raises funds for hospice

AN exhibition of model fairground rides put together by a wagon driver from Skelmersdale raised more than £100 for Queenscourt Hospice.

Tim O'Connor, from Earlswood, held the exhibition of his work at the Stanley Club, in Burscough.

The event attracted exhibitors from all over the country and 56-year-old Tim showcased his models of fairground attractions including waltzers and a moon rocket.

He decided to raise money for Queenscourt as his late mum had been cared for there as she battled cancer.

Tim said: "During the day there was a steady stream of people and thanks to everyone who turned up, including the exhibitors and the sponsors. It went well.

"We had exhibitors from Leicester, Leeds and the Midlands who all brought their own displays. I appreciated that they came so far to be at the exhibition. There were local exhibitors too.

"We all build the models so we can display them at exhibitions like the one at the Stanley Club. We also had Queenscourt collecting on the day."

Tim has been making model fairground rides for many years.

This year, he and his girlfriend, Heather worked on a model of the Speedway ride, which used to be at the Southport fair.

Exhibitors and organisers admire one of the exhibits at the model show

Hats the way to celebrate Easter!

YOUNGSTERS from the Giggles Day Nursery in Inskip, Skelmersdale certainly let the Easter celebrations go to their heads - in the nicest possible way! - by taking part in an Easter bonnet parade.

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Sarah is set to share her slimming secrets with the slimmers of Skelmersdale

A slimmer who transformed her life by losing 3 stone is using her success to shape a whole new career helping other people change their lives and achieve their weight loss dreams too.

Mum of 2 Sarah Salka joined her local Slimming World group in Ormskirk 3 years ago and dropped from a size 16 to 12.

Now, she has trained as a Consultant for Slimming World, the UK's largest group-based weight loss organisation, at their national training academy in Derbyshire. Members at the group are getting ready to welcome Sarah as their new Consultant when she takes over the group at the Evermoor HUB Digmoor (formerly Digmoor community centre) on Thursday 5th April at 4.30pm and 6.30pm.

"Support is really the most important thing. It all starts with feeling that you're not alone. I couldn't have lost 3 stone without the weekly help, encouragement and understanding of my own Consultant and group. As someone who has lost weight myself I know the challenges people can face, which is why, along with the group, I will be there to support every one of my members all the way to their chosen target weight. Setting targets, sharing recipes and other ideas, and working together as a group to overcome challenges and celebrate success is so important to a successful journey. That's why, at my Slimming World group, there'll be tons of support, encouragement and fun.

"Like a lot of slimmers, I had tried to lose weight so many times before by following numerous diets but they were never sustainable because I'd always get tired of restricting what I ate. I thought I was destined to struggle with my weight for the rest of my life, but when I came to Slimming World it was different. I never felt like I was on a diet. The eating plan encourages you to eat lots of tasty, filling foods like pasta, rice, potatoes and lean meat and fish, you are never hungry and no foods are banned so there's no deprivation. I couldn't believe I'd found a way to lose weight without starving myself.

"Slimming World isn't just about changing what you eat. Becoming more active is important too. Our Body Magic programme takes the threat out of activity by showing people, how they can build activity into their daily routine. Everything counts from walking to gardening to washing the car. As a Consultant it's my role to create that warm, supportive atmosphere to get people sharing their ideas and experiences to help others - it's going to be great fun!"

Tina Whewell, who manages Sarah as a Team Developer, says: "Slimming World Consultants are chosen for their positive outlook and because they genuinely care about the health and happiness of others. With Sarah's experience of being a successful Slimming World member and her kind and warm personality and great sense of humour I just know that she'll be an amazing support to members, cheering them all the way to their target weight."

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Tory group accuse Labour of 'secret plans' to release green belt land in new Local Plan

Council leader refutes claim and says review is a government requirement

Report by **Henry James**

THE Conservative group on West Lancs Borough Council have accused the ruling Labour leadership of having "secret plans for a massive release of land from the green belt for a new and unnecessary Local Plan."

The Tories claim the proposed plan would see a "huge increase" in the existing annual target for new homes and commercial use.

And they say Labour wants to provide "land to meet the housing and commercial needs of neighbouring councils."

However, the Labour group have refuted the claim and say that the need to review the current Local Plan is a requirement from national government.

Conservative leader, Councilor David Westley, said: "The existing Adopted Local Plan still has nine years to run, yet Labour are clearly intent on producing a new plan, one that will cover an unprecedented 30 years and need the release of hundreds of acres of prime agricultural land in our greenbelt.

"Labour also want to dispense with the present use of safeguarding potential future sites. This means the council would abdicate its responsibility to manage the release of sites and allow developers or, as they term it, 'the market', to decide which sites should be developed first. It would also mean all the sites needed for the next 30 years would be available for development from 2020."

Councillor David Westley

Council leader, Councillor Ian Moran

Importance

And Cllr. Westley, who represents Aughton and Downholland ward, added: "Labour's plans are irresponsible and if implemented would have hugely detrimental effect right across West Lancashire.

"Labour do not appreciate the importance of our green belt, nor understand that the council should act as its custodian and all councillors should be determined to maintain it for future generations.

"The Conservative group are determined to oppose Labour's reckless plans."

In response, council leader, Councillor Ian Moran, said: "It's ironic that the Conservatives have suddenly become concerned about protecting the green belt just as our legal challenge over Parrs Lane (land which they removed from the green belt) has reached a successful conclusion.

"West Lancashire needs a long-term Local Plan to address many issues, including climate change, not simply for housing and development needs.

"As the Parrs Lane legal dispute has shown, the 'safeguarding' of land for future development in the current Local Plan doesn't offer sufficient protection to our green belt, so a more effective, long-term approach is needed. It is difficult to understand why the Conservatives refuse to consider such an approach and want to persist in their ineffective, short-term thinking.

"The public should also be aware that the need to review the current Local Plan is not a whim of the Labour administration but a requirement from national government. It is also a requirement of government that local councils, under the 'duty to co-operate', consider the needs of surrounding authorities when developing a Local Plan.

"We're not choosing to build properties for other authorities but, under the current regulations, we are required to consider their future needs, just as they are required to consider ours. We also need to ensure that our local businesses are able to take full advantage of the commercial opportunities created by Liverpool's recently acquired 'superport' status, so working with neighbouring authorities is an essential part of the process.

"The Conservatives are deliberately trying to mislead the public over the nature of any potential development plans. A significant proportion of any future development, particularly commercial land, will be in the Skelmersdale area, helping to develop new job opportunities there and provide a huge boost to the local economy.

"We know that the Conservatives have difficulty understanding how effective investment in Skelmersdale can benefit everyone in the borough but it is disappointing to see them use this as an excuse for abandoning their duties in the Local Plan Cabinet Working Group.

"It would leave us in a very dangerous position not to progress with the local plan, given current government intervention in other areas where Local Plan discussions have not progressed far enough.

"Such intervention would take control of our green belt out of our hands, and decisions made on its release would then be made away from West Lancashire, without any local input.

"This makes the Conservatives' refusal to engage in the working group all the more concerning. Do they really not care about West Lancashire's green belt?"

Charity marks Conductive Education Awareness Week

RAINBOW House celebrated National Conductive Education (CE) Awareness Week with a series of events which showed how CE helps the children and young adults who attend the centre.

The aim of the week is to increase understanding of conductive education and its benefits to children and young adults with neurological conditions that affect muscle control, ability and learning.

The event at the Mawdelsey-based charity, which relies entirely on donations, saw children taking on challenges involving moving independently and being measured on the distance each individual achieved.

Tracey is a 'loser' and she couldn't be happier about it!

Report by **Henry James**

From loser to winner . . . Tracey pictured (left) before her weight loss and (right) after

BEING labelled a 'loser' isn't usually cause for celebration.

But Tracey Irwing couldn't be happier after being named 'Greatest Loser 2018' by her Slimming World group!

The mum-of-12 from Skelmersdale was awarded the accolade after shedding a life-changing eight stone and says she feels fabulous as a result.

Tracey, who's gone from tipping the scales at nearly 18 stone to a trim 9st, 10lbs, said: "There's absolutely nothing wrong with being a loser when it feels this good!

"I feel like a new woman since losing weight - in fact, I look so different that people who I haven't seen for a while often can't believe it's me!

"For me though it's the change on the inside that's been the greatest – I'm happier, healthier and much more confident now."

The proud 47-year-old joined her local group at the beginning of March last year and lost eight stone in 10 months to get to her target.

Tracey added: "My weight impacted on so many aspects of my life, from struggling to find clothes that I like to fit me, to not being able to do simple everyday tasks without feeling tired and out of breath.

"Before I lost the weight I hated having my photo taken and whenever I saw pictures of myself I knew that my smile wasn't real – yet now I'm beaming!"

Tracey's weight was also putting a huge strain on her health. People who are severely overweight, with a BMI above 30, are more likely to suffer from health problems like coronary heart disease, arthritis, diabetes and cancer, and obesity is linked to a reduction in life expectancy of between seven and nine years.

She was encouraged to join Slimming World by her daughter and says: "Walking through those doors was one of the hardest things I've ever done. I was embarrassed about my size and scared that I might be the biggest person there.

"Since then I've made so many friends at the group and I honestly don't think I could have done it without their support each week. They helped me with recipes and tips and if I was ever struggling they were always there to remind me why I'd wanted to lose weight in the first place and how far I'd come since first stepping through the doors."

Tracey has gone from a size 24 to a 10 and is also a lot more active, going to the gym three or four times a week, as well as walking her dogs a couple of times a day.

The Midstream students who took part in the walks

Midstream students tackle hills in aid of Sport Relief

PATHWAYS to Adulthood students based at Midstream in Skelmersdale took to the hills to complete two sponsored walks in aid of Sport Relief Week.

Organisers of the events said both were a great success and have so far raised £550 in sponsorships which will be donated to Sport Relief.

The students wrapped up warm to combat snow and bitter winds when they tackled their first walk to the top of Beacon Fell near Goosnargh.

And the clear skies meant they were rewarded with spectacular views when they reached the top of the fell.

The following day, the students took part in a second walk up Nicky Nook Fell near Scorton village.

Student, Natasha Stevenson, said: "The walk was challenging and it took me a while to get to the top, but it was the best walk I have ever done."

Pathways teacher, Nicola Dilworth, said: "I am so proud of the students for taking on these challenging walks and raising so much money for Sport Relief.

"Also, as part of their current curriculum, students have recently been learning about how exercise can contribute towards a healthy lifestyle. They will now be able to use the walks as evidence towards their City & Guilds qualification."

Midstream would like to thank all the students for taking part and their efforts in their fundraising.

Staff and pupils at High View Nursery are celebrating a recent outstanding Ofsted report.

Nursery rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted inspectors

STAFF and pupils at Highview Nursery in Up Holland are celebrating after they were rated as 'outstanding' following their latest Ofsted inspection.

This is a step up for the Tower Hill Road venue after being adjudged to be good in the nursery's previous inspection in 2014.

Manager at Highview Nursery, Claire Layland, said: "We are all delighted to receive recognition for all our hard work.

"The report reflects how the children grow and develop in our care and reflects how happy and settled the children are which makes us all happy and very, very proud to be a part of Highview Nursery.

"I am very proud of myself as manager and extremely proud of my dedicated staff team who always show high levels of commitment and professionalism.

"The children are amazing and the ongoing support we receive from parents is incredible."

Inspectors found that the, "manager has a wealth of knowledge and experience underpinned by ongoing training and research. Her systems for recruitment and methods of managing her team's performance are highly effective and contribute to excellent practice."

The report also found that teachers were "highly skilled" and it went on to say that, "the extremely dedicated and qualified team demonstrates an exceptional understanding of their professional responsibilities and how children learn."

Children highlighted for "confidently" leading play with expert support from staff.

The report highlighted as well that staff acted as "positive role models and their interaction with children is excellent. Children are extremely confident, self-assured and their behaviour is exemplary."

Inspectors praised the manager and her team for "continually striving for improvement." And they added that "well-focused improvement plans are implemented in the pursuit of excellence."

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Black swan cygnets make a splash at wildfowl centre

THE WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre welcomed a trio of new additions to its feathered attractions in time for Easter with the hatching of three black swan cygnets.

The new arrivals come as the officials at the Burscough reserve say they are expecting a very good season for nesting birds this year.

As well as its plumage, the black swan is distinctive for its striking red bill and the species breeds mainly in the south east and south west regions of Australia. The male is slightly bigger than the female, with a straighter bill, which is the only way to tell them apart.

Like other swans, black swans are largely monogamous and pair for life.

The newly-hatched cygnets can be seen by children with their parents in the Weird or Wonderful area of the grounds at the Mere.

Centre manager, Nick Brooks, said: "We are already seeing lots of activity in the breeding season – not only do we have these three cygnets, but we also have nine Hawaiian geese goslings (Nenes) and a cape barren gosling is also due to hatch.

"Add the wild birds -moorhens, mallard and shelduck - all nest building and we are expecting a good season for nesting birds."

The black swans and their cygnets take to the water for an early swimming lesson at the WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre.

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Teenager set to lose his locks for cancer charity

Report by **Henry James**

A TEENAGER from Skelmersdale is all set to sacrifice his beloved locks for a worthy cause.

Joshua Davies, who is a student at Ormskirk school, is set to have 'the chop' at the Urban Hair salon on High Street - fittingly on Friday, April 13! - and will donate his cherished curls to a company that makes wigs for people who have lost their hair during cancer treatment.

And the 15-year-old is also planning to raise money for Cancer Research by inviting family and friends to sponsor his haircut.

Joshua said: "Cancer is a horrible illness that takes many loved ones from us.

"I have seen a family member go through having cancer and survive and I have also been told of stories about family members who lost their fight to this horrible illness.

"I wanted to think of a way that I could try and make a difference by raising money so they can continue the great research they do to find a cure.

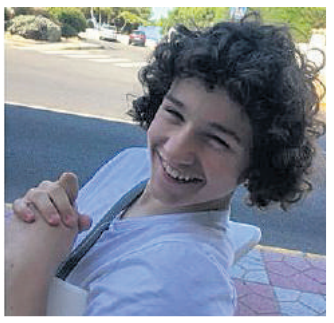
"So I decided that I would get my long, curly hair cut - anyone who knows me knows I love my hair and how much it means to me!

"But by getting my hair cut really short I can raise money for charity and also donate the hair that I am losing to a company that can use it to help create wigs for people who have lost hair during cancer treatment."

Joshua's dad, Lee James, commented: "My son is doing a really selfless act. He just wants to raise awareness of and money for Cancer Research.

"Teenagers in this day and age often get a name but I think this is a really good act on Joshia's part to want to do this.

"His mother and I are very proud parents."



Joshua Davies will sacrifice his curly locks for cancer charity

Pupils display eye-catching Easter creations

THERE were some eye-catching creations on display when St James' Catholic Primary School staged its Easter Bonnet Parade and Egg Decoration competition.

Proud parents were invited along to enjoy the fun with children from the nursery through to Year 6 taking part.

Headteacher, Dave Iliff, said: "The amount of work that has gone into these wonderful creations has been fantastic."

Scouts organise activities to mark British Science Week

MEMBERS of the 1st Skelmersdale Methodist Scout Group (Ormskirk District) put fears about the future of their Barnes Road HQ aside for a day to organise activities for British Science week.

The group hosted the Science Department from Liverpool University, as one of the planned events, which are taking place over the year, to celebrate 80 years of serving in the community.

Staff and students from the university, along with scout leaders, were involved in delivering a number of fun science experiments suitable for children aged six to 18. Parents and grandparents were also invited to participate and many of the children took along non-scouting friends to let them sample a scouting event.

The main attraction was the universitiy's mobile planetarium. This event was split into 20-minute sessions and could accommodate 12 people per session. The entire event attracted almost 200 people from 10am to 4pm and was free to attend.

Further events will take place to celebrate the town's longest serving youth group, which was founded in 1938.

If anyone has photos or memorabilia of the group contact Charlie Cavaghan on 01695 733947 or email lescavscouts1@gmail.com.

School gets competitive in aid of Sport Relief

A STAFF versus Year 6 Dodgeball challenge was held as part of Crow Orchard Primary School's Sport Relief Week efforts.

The Year 6 youngsters took on a select team of staff, emerging 2-1 victors in the best-of-three challenge.

All the school's sporting events were sponsored by family and friends with other challenges including 10,000 repetitions of sports exercise, a danceathon and a Wacky races competition.

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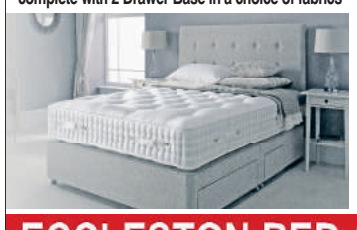

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Edge Hill in top 20 of student experience 'league table'

EDGE Hill is one of only two universities in the North West to secure a top-20 place out of 116 universities in a national league table of student experience voted for by students.

The Ormskirk campus sits within the top sixth of all those surveyed in the Times Higher Education (THE) Student Experience Survey 2018.

It has also secured a top four position for its accommodation and been voted the seventh safest university in the country.

Edge Hill's "high-quality" facilities have also been recognised, with a top eight mark for sports and learning facilities, "good library and opening hours, cheap shop and centralised amenities."

Vice-chancellor, Dr John Cater, said: "To be in the national top 10 for accommodation, amenities, learning services, sports facilities, safety and cost of living and in the top two in the region for all aspects of our student experience is another strong commendation for Edge Hill University as we continue to further enhance our reputation as a leading provider of higher education."

Edge Hill also secured a joint position with Durham University in the top 20 for its academic experience, achieving, "excellent marks for having high-quality staff and lectures, well-structured courses, tuition in small groups and a fair workload."

Vice-chancellor Dr John Cater: "This is another strong recommendation for Edge Hill University"

MP welcomes plan for new medical school on campus

ROSIE Cooper has welcomed the news that Edge Hill University is to host a new medical school to train doctors.

The West Lancs MP, who lobbied for and wrote in support of the university's application to be considered for the new training facility, said: "I am delighted for Edge Hill University that their success is being recognised by the General Medical Council.

"Having supported the bid, I believe it will help to address local healthcare challenges and workforce shortages in the health sector.

"The provision of medical education in West Lancashire will allow local young people, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds and underrepresented groups, to study medicine which will benefit our local hospitals."

Heritage group talk

ROGER Frost will give an illustrated talk entitled *The Monastic Wealth in Early Modern Lancashire and Yorkshire* at the next meeting of the Burscough Heritage Group.

This will be held at the Blue Mallard on Burscough Wharf on Monday April 9, starting at 7.30pm.

All are welcome to attend for a £2 donation. For more information contact Colin Wareing on 07931 356204.

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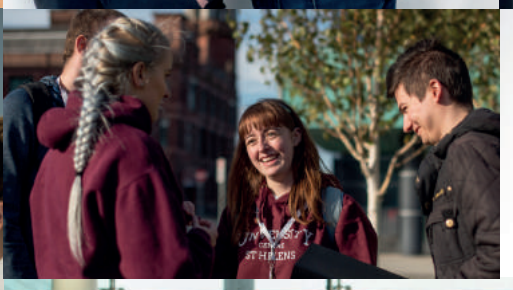

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June opening date confirmed for new Magull rail station

THE first services from the new Maghull North railway station will run from Monday, June 18.

The opening date was confirmed as the first of several community projects involving local groups and schools was unveiled at the station site.

After the unveiling, Rob Grey, Network Rail project manager for the scheme, gave a presentation about the work involved in building a new station and the jobs and skills needed to work in the rail industry and railway safety, followed by a question and answer session.

Andy Heath, managing director of Merseyrail, said: "We are really looking forward to welcoming Maghull North station on to the Merseyrail network. It will make our network much more accessible for those living nearby and it's great to see the station already becoming part of the community with the artwork that has been created by local schools."

Rob Grey, added: "The new station forms part of a massive £340m railway investment in the Liverpool City Region which is about boosting connectivity and capacity - making room for new, longer trains, with more space for passengers."

Facilities at the new station will include staffed station building and ticket office with passenger toilet; passenger waiting facilities on the platforms; step-free access with lifts and a bridge to, from and between both platforms and the station building; 156-space car park with blue badge and motorcycle parking facilities, as well as cycle storage; pedestrian and cycle routes from School Lane and Park Lane to the station, and bus stops on School Lane.

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The veterans at the Dementia Friends session

Veterans sign up as Dementia Friends

Report by **Henry James**

WEST Lancashire's Dementia Friends champion, Joe Sherville has staged a Dementia Friends session at Skelmersdale Buffs Communities club with the Skelmersdale Veterans' Association.

Two of the veterans have dementia and their 15 veteran colleagues became Dementia Friends to support them, have a better understanding about the condition and help to make the community more dementia-friendly.

Alan Lewis from the Skelmersdale Veterans' Association said: "We took part in the scheme to support other veterans who may be showing early symptoms of dementia.

"I want to thank Joe Sherville from the Alzheimer's Society for the training session. The training was very important."

Meanwhile, the veterans have also received sponsorship for the forthcoming Armed Forces Fun weekend to be held on Saturday and Sunday, July 14 and 15 at Blaguegate Playing Fields, Railway Road, Old Skelmersdale. The veterans want to thank Skelmersdale Taxis for their help.

Links

There will be a veteran's village at this year's Fun Day, where a number of different agencies will be running stalls, including The Royal British Legion and Combat Stress. The show is being co-ordinated by Steve Ryan, and Mike Cerrigan.

Alan Lewis added: "As a town with such strong links to the military, we are very proud of our military history and our armed force veterans associations in the town.

"The association is particularly thrilled to be able to support this event, which as well as being fun, also carries a strong message.

"It's an opportunity to say thank-you and show our support to the armed forces, from those currently serving to reservists, veterans, cadets and their families. I would also like to thank veterans Jimmy Mathews, William Duncan, Tommy Creecy and Paul Mosquito for their help over the past few weeks."

For more information about the show contact Alan Moore at svasec@outlook.com.

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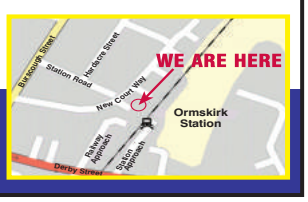

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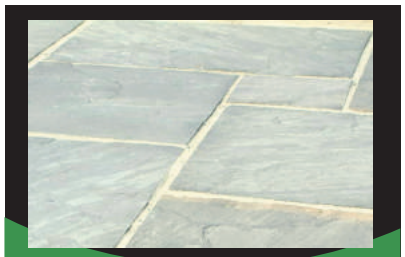

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Churches come together for Good Friday service

CLERGY from different denominations gathered together to lead Good Friday reflections at the Clock Tower in Ormskirk.

The service was preceded by the annual 'Walk of Witness', organised by Ormskirk Churches Together, through the town centre.

Among those attending the service was Canon Ross Moughtin who has recently announced that he is retiring as vicar of Christ Church, Aughton, his final service in post being on Sunday, April 8.

Also in attendance was the Mayor of West Lancs, Councillor Neil Furey.

● Left: Local clergy conduct the Good Friday open-air service in Ormskirk town centre.

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New vicar at St John the Baptist Church

AS one church leader prepares his last sermon as vicar of one local church a new minister is set to deliver his first to the parishioners of another.

Canon Ross Moughtin is retiring as vicar of Christ Church, Aughton and his final service in post will be on Sunday, April 8 at 10.45am.

Meanwhile a new vicar has been installed at St John the Baptist Church, Burscough, at a service officiated by the Bishop of Liverpool, the Right Reverend Paul Bayes.

St John's has been without a vicar since the passing of Reverend Simon Glynn last summer following a short illness. The role has now been filled by Reverend Canon David Banbury, who was previously an army chaplain and most recently Diocesan Missioner in Blackburn Diocese.

Reverend Banbury, who is originally from Durham, is also a playwright and theatre lover and had one of his plays performed at last year's Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Addressing his new congregation he said: "Thank-you so much for the invitation to be Vicar of St John the Baptist Burscough. I am thrilled by the opportunity to serve amongst you and to work alongside a great team."

Reverend Canon David Banbury is welcomed by Archdeacon Venerable Jennifer McKenzie and the Bishop of Liverpool, Right Reverend Paul Bayes

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County council information event for prospective adopters

LANCASHIRE County Council is staging another of its information evenings aimed at helping people considering adoption find out about the process involved.

This will be held at County Hall, on Fishergate, Preston, on Tuesday, April 10 from 6 to 7.30pm.

There's no need to book, people can just turn up, but early arrival is recommended so that the presentation can start promptly. People attending are also asked to stay for the whole session.

The council is focussing on two different types of adoption, so that more babies and young children can go to live with their permanent family more quickly.

Personal qualities

Best for Baby (concurrent placements) place babies and young children, aged up to two, with foster carers who may go on to give them a permanent home.

Better Beginnings (the fostering-for-adoption scheme) is for children where there is no realistic prospect of a return to their birth family.

County Councillor Susie Charles, Lancashire's cabinet member for children, young people and schools, said: "We're looking for people from all backgrounds to offer a permanent home and family to children who are not able to live with their birth family.

"What matters to us are your personal qualities and that you are able to provide a loving home, where you can support and look after a child throughout their childhood and beyond.

"More children in Lancashire are benefiting from being placed with their adoptive families earlier, thanks to these programmes."

To adopt, you must be over 21 and live in Lancashire or close by, whatever your race, gender, sexuality, living arrangements, age or employment status.

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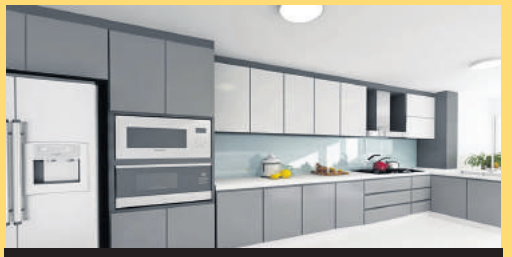

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport PR9 0QA
tel 01704 392 400 email editor@champnews.com

Pot holes are not repaired properly

Re: The article headed 'Repairs have gone to pot' (Champion, March 14) having read Councillor Keith Iddon's response to the so-called 'repair' to this particular pot hole, I find it amazing how he can condone such appalling workmanship.

The 'repairs' have clearly been done wrong in the first place.

The sub-surface should have been - if wet - dried with propane burners and then primed so that the new tarmacadam would adhere.

Mr Iddon also points out that the weather at the end of 2017 caused the problems with the pot holes.

It probably did but this pot hole was "repaired" in early March.

Eric Ormesher,
Burscough

All should pay for new bins or no one should

THE reason why West Lancashire Council wants to change the colours for recycling bins is to save money.

If the council had decided that it wanted brown bins for cardboard/paper then every household would need one, but by swapping the colours around only those households using the garden waste scheme would need a brown bin.

This brings me to a very sore point. Those already using the scheme will get free brown bins, but in very small print, those who wish to join the scheme from now on with have to pay for them.

Why?

Surely all West Lancs residents should be treated the same when they wish to purchase a council service?

So all should pay for their new brown bins to use the garden waste scheme, or no one pays.

I am a keen recycler but think that I might put any garden waste that is not suitable for the compost bin or shredding into the grey bin.

That might put the cat among the pigeons.

**Hazel Anderton,
Halsall**

Money could have gone on something more useful

I CANNOT understand how West Lancashire Council come up with some of their ideas.

We are seeing the council tax increase by by 5.65% and are told the council is short of money.

Yet if you have paid for your green bin last year you are getting a free brown bin!

That means yet another eyesore outside our houses and on the street.

And where is the money coming from to fund these thousands of brown bins? I think it's from that 5.65% increase so we are all paying for everyone's free brown bins.

Not only are they wasting our money on freebies, they are also going to pay for a leaflet to explain the change of use of your ever-increasing bin collection to every household.

This is more money out of the council tax that could have been spent on something useful.

Chris Gradwell,
By email

PICTURE of the week

There were shrieks of delight as children tumbled down a giant slide which was on of the attractions at an Easter Saturday family fun day out hosted by Southport's Lakeside Church. Picture by Martyn Snape.

Thanks, folks for all your support over the year

WEST Lancashire Pensioners Forum wish to express their gratitude and thanks for the financial support they have received over the last year, in the form of grants awarded by the following people, without whom we would be required to finance every trip and function, possibly creating hardship for the group as a whole.

We would like to say thank-you to county councillors Azhar Ali, Nikki Hennessy, Joan Burrows, Terry Aldridge and Malcolm Barron and borough councillors Clair Cooper and Julie Gibson.

Although we are a non-political and non-religious group you were willing to help us.

Other awards were made to us by Age UK and The John Laing Foundation and we now hold our monthly meetings in St Ann"s Parochial Hall without any charge, due to the generosity of parish priest, Father Godric Timney.

Once again a massive thank-you to you all for helping to give nearly 80 elderly citizens, another focus in life.

The meetings are held every third Tuesday in the month at 1.30pm in the above venue, with discussions and speakers and concluding with tea and biscuits.

Membership is £10 per year and all senior citizens are welcome.

**Officers, committee and members of
West Lancashire Pensioners Forum**

Grateful for coverage of this important issue - and Colin's efforts in achieving victory for campaign

RE: Aughton land development victory, thank-you for the high-profile front-page coverage reporting (Champion, March 28) on this important issue.

It is indeed a great victory and relief.

And I would like to publicly thank Colin Atkinson, chairman of the Aughton Residents Group, for his efforts in achieving this.

Whilst others have lost hope, myself included at times, Colin has never relented and given up the fight - a difficult fight that has spanned many years!

Without his dedication and drive, along with the support of the council, I'm sure the developers would be building on that site by now.

Our vigilance must continue on this matter as I'm sure the developers will not give up trying to make millions out of this prime land.

In the words of Colin 'onwards and upwards!'.

**Michaela Riches, member of the
Aughton Residents Group**

More bins means more obstacles on the street for the elderly, disabled and young to negotiate

I READ with some dismay Councillor Kevin Wilkie's new plans for the collection of garden waste, the introduction of yet another bin, this time brown, and his expectation that West Lancs residents will happily and thoroughly clean out the existing green bins so that they can be used for the disposal of paper and cardboard.

As I already compost garden waste, papers and card, I will not be paying for the service or the brown bin. I do object to more bins being left out on the streets though.

On recycle day there is the potential for three bins to many properties and those who have two garden bins will have four out - all blocking the pavements so that wheelchair-users, like my family member, are forced into the roads.

Indeed a near neighbour will have two green bins for all his cardboard, two brown bins for his garden waste and a blue bin for his recycling. As there is no pavement outside his property that means five bins on the road.

It isn't just wheelchair users affected. What about the sight-impaired people with their guide dogs? I see, on a regular basis, one sight-impaired person being taken out into the middle of the road by the guide dog and into oncoming traffic because of the ridiculous amount of cars and other vehicles parked up on pavements.

The dog goes around the bins too and we're not talking about just one more bin but many more bins on every street.

Then there are the kids, to and from school, little ones, with their mothers who are often pushing prams too. Small children on their scooters and bikes, forced into the road.

Elderly, with mobility problems, the list goes on.

A list that Kevin Wilkie just hasn't considered, but then why would he? He's not paid to think of us, the public. He's paid to come up with yet more ridiculous ways of wasting the taxpayers' money.

A.S., details supplied

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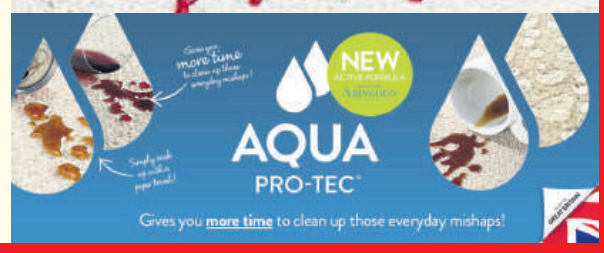

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Chips	£1.20	£1.80
Cheese and Chips	£2.10	£2.90
Onion Rings	£2.00	£3.00
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Spam Fritters	£1.00
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Cans	£1.00
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'Disney On Ice' winners

THE lucky winners of the Champion's recent Disney On Ice competition were Lorraine Marcall, Walton; Julie Pallett, Parbold; Grace Taylor, Southport; Mrs K.Woodward, Skelmersdale and Geraldine Logan, Ormskirk.

They each receive four tickets for the Disney spectacular opening at the Liverpool Echo Arena on Wednesday, April 11.

Correct answer to the question: 'What year was Walt Disney born?' was 1901.

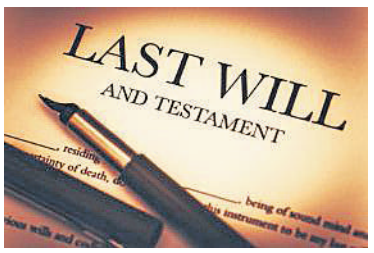
New friends group

A NEW social group has been started up for people in the Ormskirk, Skelmersdale and Wigan areas. Geared towards men and women in their 20s and 30s, organisers of the Meetup group say it aims to help people make new friends. For more details go to www.meetup.com/skelmersdale-wigan-ormskirk-20s-30s.

Where there's a will there's a way to give hospice a donation!

QUEENSCOURT Hospice is holding its Make A Will Month throughout April.

The hospice provides support for the people of West Lancs, Southport and Formby caring for patients with serious illnesses, enabling them to achieve the best possible quality of life at each new stage.



Queenscourt Hospice is holding a Make A Will Month appeal for donations

Staff have joined forces with local solicitors who have donated their time free of charge in return for donations to the charity in Town Lane, Southport,

If you have not already made an appointment, there is still time and limited availability with some practices.

Making a will ensures that your loved ones are provided for as you wish. Unless you make a will, you cannot guarantee that your estate will be distributed as you desire. There is no obligation for you to include a gift to the hospice in your will, however, any gift made to a UK-registered charity, such as Queenscourt, will be tax-free and may help reduce the amount of inheritance tax loved ones would otherwise have to pay.

Solicitors taking part in the scheme are based in Formby, Southport and West Lancs. They will not charge for their time but instead will ask for a suggested donation to Queenscourt - £90 for a basic single will, £135 for a joint will, or £40 for a codicil to an existing will.

A spokesperson for the hospice said: "All donations to Queenscourt are invaluable in enabling us to continue providing the highest standard of end-of-life care for our patients and their families.

"Making a will doesn't have to be daunting, the participating solicitors will guide you through the process, ensuring your family is looked after.

"We thank the solicitors and members of the public supporting the scheme for their fantastic support."

For details of participating solicitors, visit the hospice website at www.queenscourt.org.uk.

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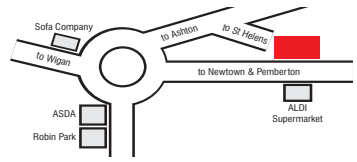

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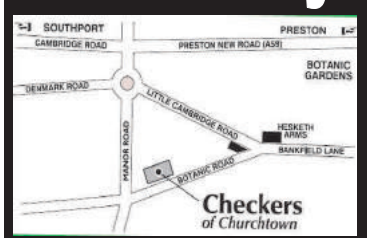

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Spring sprung a snowy surprise on our Easter boating holiday

BY the time you read this Easter will have passed and spring will have been around officially for two or three weeks.

The problem is of course that no-one has told the weather about all this.

Last I heard, snowfall was still being expected, in parts of Scotland at least, and the last time I travelled by bus to Southport folk were huddled against the biting wind at the bus stop and wiping condensation off the bus windows so they could watch the dreary scene outside.

Of course, this is not a new phenomenon, much as I would like to blame it on Global Warming or Brexit.

I well remember several years ago now, when my mum was still alive, being down on our boat in Norfolk over the Easter weekend. Mum, my brother George, myself and of course the two dogs (it was Tina and Buttons then in the pre-Cinders era) had arrived on the Thursday and arranged to meet two friends of ours at moorings adjacent to a riverside hostelry on Good Friday evening.

They duly turned up - as I remember it was a somewhat overcast and rather chilly evening, but quiet and peaceful. We had a few drinks and a convivial supper and retired to our bunks for the night.

We awoke to a completely changed world. There was - and I kid you not - a good two-and-a-half inches of snow covering the decks and roof, and what had been a large grassy area beside us had been transformed into something deep and crisp and even!

Now, at that time and place this was a novel attraction which improved our short break if only because of its being so unexpected. Nevertheless, as spring, it had undoubtedly sprung a leek.

I must confess that over the past two or three years, being the sole human in a crew of three on my boat, *Manxman*, I have become a tad more circumspect about when we go down to the Broads. In the 'old days' with brother George as chief engineer and supplier of sometimes needed muscle, we used to start our boating season a couple of weeks before Easter so as to miss the crowds.

But, after fighting gales and lashing winds alone (the 'crew' are both barking mad) in early/mid-March and facing iced up waterways and freezing extremities in November, I have revised my cruising dates to from mid-April until mid-October.

It's not cowardice, it's common sense. A lesson I learned the hard way. Broken equipment and scuffed fingers are not really fun, no matter how hard I might have tried to make them so.

Meanwhile, back in the 'real' world, I was saddened to hear this week of the death of Sir William McAlpine, aged 82, great-grandson of Robert McAlpine, 'Concrete Bob' whose belief in the worth of this hard stuff resulted in the construction of many magnificent bridges and tunnels, particularly in Scotland.

But Sir William (who incidentally opened the beautifully rebuilt railway station at Ormskirk) was first and foremost a businessman, running a construction and civil engineering empire, and one who gives the lie to those who look upon all such people as grasping and selfish.

In one field alone - one that I know a little about - Sir William was the man who saved the magnificent icon, the *Flying Scotsman,* for posterity when this British icon was marooned in the USA facing an uncertain future.

He did the same for the historic Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch narrow-gauge railway and willingly helped, with advice and encouragement, as well as financial backing, many other projects. So, I salute you, Sir William, long may people remember you fondly.

Right, back to the here and now...

Whether it is truly spring or not, inevitably the weather must soon cheer up, which means folk will be leaving our sunny shores in droves for their holidays, while I and my trusty 'sea dogs' will be blissfully afloat in watery Norfolk and Suffolk.

A workman is dwarfed by the crane used to lift a series of modular buildings into place to expand A&E facilities at Southport Hospital

Giant crane hoists new A&E modules into place

A 60-FOOT crane dominated the skyline at Southport Hospital when it was used to install a new extension to the A&E department.

The crane lifted four ready-built modules into place to create an eight-bay extension to the department which treats patients from West Lancashire.

The extension is part of a £1.25m improvement project to create a better caring and working environment for patients and staff. Further A&E bays will be created in the main hospital building.

County to benefit from new pathology diagnostic service

HEALTH services in the county have been given a boost following the announcement that the Government is to invest in a state-of the-art single pathology diagnostic service for the region.

Lancashire and South Cumbria will receive funding to support a £31 million scheme to create a single pathology diagnostic service between Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust, East Lancashire Hospitals Trust and Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Bowling club offers free taster sessions

ORMSKIRK Bowling Club is offering free taster sessions for would-be new members unfamiliar with the subtleties of crown green bowling.

Taster sessions for all the family will be held at the club in Altys Lane, behind Ormskirk Cricket Club, on Saturday, April 7 starting at 10.30am and 2pm.

All equipment will be provided - just wear flat shoes or trainers - and there's no need to book.

The club is also starting junior sessions (for ages 7 to 16) on Thursday, April 5 at 6pm. Any young people are welcome to go along and give it a try.

For further information contact club secretary Ian Gill on 07500 918 081 or visit the website at www.ormskirkbowlingclub.wordpress.com. The club can also be found on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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See our Picture of the Week on page 16

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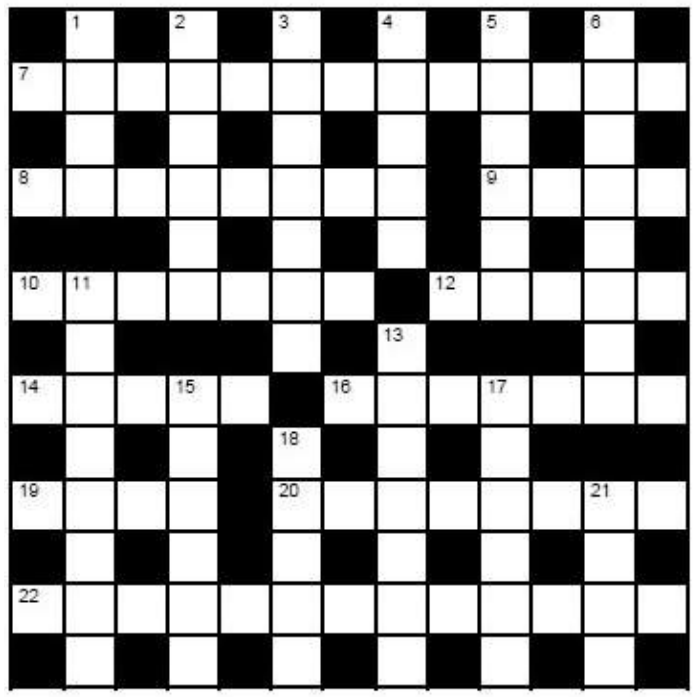

Last week's solutions:

Across: 7. Vagary. 8. A level. 9. Zany. 10. Tea towel. 11. Crucify. 13. Staid. 15. Thumb. 17. Bearded. 20. Zero hour. 21. Tuck. 22. Parent. 23 Troupe.

Down: 1. Bazaar. 2. Easy. 3. Mystify. 4. Fatal. 5. Sea otter. 6. Yemeni. 12. Composer. 14. Redruth. 16. Hee-haw. 18. Except. 19 Booty. 21. Thor.

ACROSS

7. Person whose job is to guard a building in the evening (5,8)
8. Fill to capacity (4,4)
9. Bicycle or motorcycle (4)
10. Convert waste into reusable material (7)
12. A person who believes that people are motivated purely by self interest (5)
14. Rental agreement (5)
16. Thin and bony (7)
19. Individual article or unit (4)
20. System of pipes, tanks, fittings, etc. for water supply, heating, and sanitation in a building (8)
22. Relating to the natural world and the impact of human activity on its condition (13)

DOWN

1. Movable frame on which a coffin or a corpse is placed before burial (4)
2. On friendly terms (6)
3. Very badly, unpleasantly (7)
4. Market stand or booth (5)
5. Plump and rounded (6)
6. Laughing in a loud, harsh manner (8)
11. Equestrian sport involving several disciplines (8)
13. Delicious (7)
15. The highest point of a hill or mountain (6)
17. Person or animal having a congenital absence of pigment in the skin and hair (6)
18. Parody (5)
21. A tide just after the first or third quarters of the moon when there is least difference between high and low water (4)

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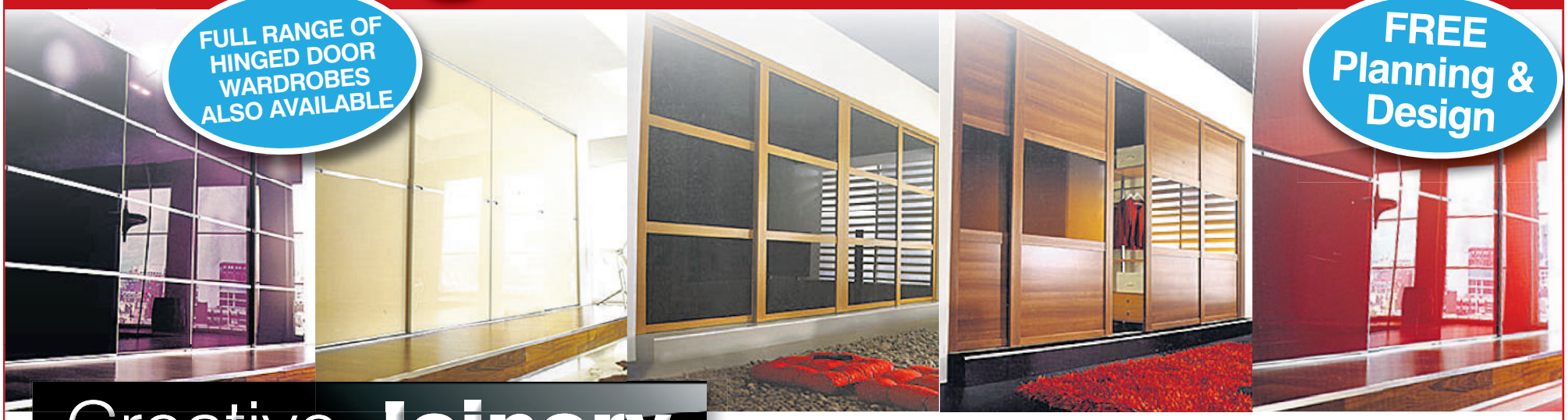

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MP calls for more support for young people with bladder and bowel issues

ROSIE Cooper delivered the keynote speech at the launch of a new report aimed at supporting children and young people with bladder and bowel issues.

The West Lancs MP, who serves as co-chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Continence Care, endorsed the report, *It happens to me too*, which found that support for the nearly 900,000 children and young people in the UK with these issues was inadequate and needs to be addressed urgently.

The report highlights the stigma around bladder and bowel issues with almost two thirds of young people embarrassed about seeing a doctor about continence issues resulting in a significant impact on their day-to-day lives.

Ms Cooper said: "It is believed there are more than 21 million people in the UK who suffer with bladder and bowel control problems, 900,000 of whom are children and young people.

"There is often a stigma associated with bladder and bowel problems, which impacts on the ability of children and young people to interact socially and live as independently as possible in their local communities. They face further challenges in gaining access to practical advice that explains what they should expect from their local health and social care services."

Rosie Cooper pictured at the launch of the report with Dr Penny Dobson of the Paediatric Continence Forum; Gerald Chan of Coloplast UK; and Juliette Randall, CEO of ERIC, The Children's Bowel and Bladder Charity

Recommendations in the report include:

- Swift implementation of Excellent in Continence Care (EICC) to deliver a clear framework for delivering high-quality bladder and bowel services including knowledge over patient rights and access to services.
- A community-based service covering day and night time wetting, soiling and constipation problems.
- Local services should seek to identify people with continence issues who may be at risk and offer a comprehensive assessment to look for 'red flags' indicating an underlying condition.
- Bladder and bowel services for young people should employ a paediatric continence nurse specialist.
- Local pathways should be implemented, through which healthcare professionals can refer young people on to other services if appropriate.

Rosie Cooper MP commented: "This report will be the first step in helping to improve the lives of the children, young people and their families affected by bladder and bowel problems.

"More must be done to ensure that the support that is needed to allow them to get on with their lives and realise their full potential is available to them, no matter where they live. I look forward to working with the groups involved in the report to take forward its recommendations."

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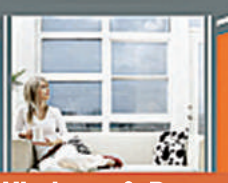
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Tina Whewell has run a Slimming World franchise since September 1993 after losing 2 stone herself with the weight loss organisation and changing her life. Since then, she's made it her mission to help others transform their lives.

"This really is the best job in the world as far as I'm concerned," says Tina, who runs successful groups at ***Ormskirk Rugby club every Wednesdays at 9.30am & 11.30am and 5.30pm & 7.30pm and Saturdays at 7.30am & 9.30am.***

"After spending most of my adult life convinced the only way to lose weight was to go hungry and be miserable, I actually thought I'd died and gone to heaven when I discovered with Slimming World I could still eat all my favourite foods, have a social life and lose weight. I also fell in love with whole ethos of the company and for the first time in my life I was able to remove any guilt normally associated with eating and weight loss.
I opened my first group in Ormskirk almost 25 years ago. I became a Senior Consultant in May 1998 and a Team Developer in 2007. I have also won some amazing holidays including a South African safari staying in Sun City - fabulous rewards just for being successful in a job I love.

The groups have had some fantastic life changing achievements over the years just a few examples being a member who lost 6st to enable her to adopt her daughter, a member who lost 4st and is no longer diabetic and most recently a member who has lost over 10 stone who was almost unable to walk and at risk of losing her legs who now walks every day - just because she can.

The LinkedIn research showed that people who have a real sense of purpose at work are much more likely to be happy in their job. The research also found that people whose role is based in the local community, who have their own business and who work in healthcare are all more likely to feel like they have a purpose in their work and Tina agrees, saying she's extra lucky as she has all three!

Tina adds "All of our Consultants originally joined us as Slimming World members, giving them an understanding of what it's like to struggle with their weight and all have had success on the plan. Personal qualities are so important and we look for warmth, energy and enthusiasm, good listening skills and, most importantly, a caring non-judgemental nature and a genuine desire to help people lose weight – giving people the confidence to achieve their dreams is our ultimate mission and you don't get a better sense of purpose than that!"

So if you want to lose weight in the easiest way possibly with a local slimming expert call Tina on 07855 097585 or pop along to any of her warm and friendly groups.

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(behind Fun Factor)
6.30pm
Michelle: 07931 125172

OLD ROAN
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9.30am & 11.30am
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OLD SKELMERSDALE
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TUESDAY

OLD SKELMERSDALE
The Cricket Club,
Blaguegate Lane
9am & 11am
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WEDNESDAY

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Ormskirk Rugby Club,
Green Lane
9.30 & 11.30am
Tina: 0151 548 4266

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club,
Green Lane
5.30 & 7.30pm
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MAGHULL
The Cheshire Lines
(behind Fun Factor)
4.30 & 6.30pm
Emma: 07414 223 617

UP HOLLAND
Up Holland Methodist Church,
Alma Hill
9.30am
Sarah: 07969 395302

UP HOLLAND
Up Holland Methodist Church,
Alma Hill
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Sarah: 07969 395302

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Kathy: 07815 199346

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Winifred Lane
8.00am & 10.00am
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3.00pm 5:00pm & 7.00pm
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Birleywood
9.30am & 11.30am
Jackie: 07888 830892

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Digmoor Community Centre,
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Sarah: 07792 146342
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Zoe: 01695 580966

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Sue: 07957 531346

SATURDAY

OLD SKELMERSDALE
Greenhill Community Room
Beech Close
(Off Lancaster Cres)
8am & 10am
Sarah: 07969 395302

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club
Green Lane
7.30am & 9.30am
Tina: 0151 548 4266
NEW CONSULTANT

ORMSKIRK
St Anne's School,
Aughton Street, Ormskirk
10.30am & 12.30pm
Sue: 07817 444580

MAGHULL
The Cheshire Lines
(behind Fun Factor)
Saturday 9am & 11am
Gill: 07921 222405

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Still time to enjoy Easter activities at Chapel Gallery and Tree House

THERE'S still time to catch fun activities during the Easter holiday break at the Chapel Gallery in Ormskirk and The Tree House, Sandy Lane Centre, Skelmersdale.

On Friday, April 6 from 11am to 3pm, children can enjoy free, Easter-themed 'making' activities at the Tree House - but you are advised to book on 07860 617353 to be sure of a place.

Meanwhile at the Chapel Gallery in St Helens Road, Ormskirk until Saturday, April 7 there will be a range of free Easter-themed creative activities.

There will also be a programme of professional-led sessions for families and children.

Audiences will be taken on a magical journey of storytelling, puppetry and music with the Lempen Puppet Theatre's 'Cardboard Carnival' show at 2pm today (Wednesday, April 4).

Celebrate

The show is recommended for children aged four to 10 and over, and tickets cost £4 each or £15 for a family ticket for two adults and two children or one adult and three children.

Then on Thursday, April 5 children aged eight and over can celebrate the arrival of spring by making leafy clay sculptures of the fabled Green Man at the 'Green Man Sculptures' event with Sarah Jane Richards.

Sessions cost £4 per child per session and take place between 10am and midday and from 1 to 3pm.

Children do not need a parent or other adult with them to attend.

And there is a free Easter Egg Hunt at the Chapel Gallery every day until Friday, April 6. Find all the eggs and claim a prize.

To book places at any of these events contact the Chapel Gallery on 01695 571328 or email chapel.gallery@westlancs.gov.uk.

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FOCUS ON WEDDINGS

Are you getting married this year or next? Well congratulations! What a fabulous time to be planning a wedding. With a royal wedding right around the corner, the country has gone wedding mad! Gone are the days of stuffy traditions and stressful plans to please everyone but yourself. We now welcome an age where the sky really is the limit. A wedding is not about going through the motions and following the so called "wedding rule book" (unless that's your thing of course) It's about throwing the rule book out of the window and celebrating your uniqueness and the special quirks that make you such an amazing couple. Having said that, too much choice can sometimes be a little daunting so the aim here is to narrow down some of the trends that we feel will be huge this year, and hopefully help you work out what will make your special day truly amazing!

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DECOR

2017 was the year of the unicorn, the mermaid and anything iridescent, and with Pantone's colour of the year this year being ultra violet, we are going to see a lot of colour. The past few years have seen a lot of greenery, nudes and blush pinks and these colours are still bang on trend and completely timeless but do not be afraid to play around with colour, or not have a colour scheme at all! Bright florals mixed with softer pastel tones look amazing and completely summery.

Wedding décor seems to be using a lot of Asian influences at the moment with bold colours and opulent golds. Use colour where it is least expected, with coloured glass vases or wine glasses, charger plates or napkins. Ask a venue stylist how to add splashes of colour to your chairs or hire a brightly coloured aisle runner to make your wedding dress pop.

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WEDDING ATTIRE

Last year we saw dresses with clean lines, simple detailing and totally chic. This year we are seeing more fun, flirty silhouettes. Lots of textures and layers of fabric to add more dimension to your dress and give your guests something different to look at from every angle. We are seeing a lot more of a natural waist line or dropped waist line, with brides opting for a modern take on a traditional dress crochet lace, caviar detailing and sleeves are all the rage. Colourful dresses in soft blues, blushes and lavenders are a way to make you stand out from the crowd. Designers such as Hayley Paige, Berta Bridal and Pronovias are dominating the runway with their fun, fresh, modern but totally glam designs!

And it's not just the brides having all the fun now. We have seen a sharp rise in alternative Male fashion with grooms choosing to avoid renting the same suits and instead opting to express their personalities through their attire. After all, it's their special day too! We are seeing a lot more braces, floral ties and dicky bows, coloured shirts and accessories such as hats, funky shoes and socks and amazing buttonholes. Don't just think flowers for buttonholes, there are some fabulous ways of making buttonholes from things that mean something special to you. Have a look online for inspiration.

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FOOD AND DRINK

The main thing guests remember about a wedding are the dress, the entertainment, the special touches and the food. It is one of the main parts of the wedding day so let your personalities shine through on your menu. Maybe you are honeymooning in Greece, or the first holiday you took together was in Spain? So why not serve your guests Spanish tapas or Greek kebabs. Maybe you both have a passion for Mexican food and therefore don't be afraid to serve tacos or burritos! Remember, it's your day and you should eat what you love. Most of your guests will appreciate something a little different. Most reputable wedding venues will be flexible with their menus and will cater to your requirements so don't be afraid to ask! Food trucks are still a big favourite and vintage ice cream trucks can be great fun in the summer. Want to add some more personal touches? How about a scotch and cigar bar for the men? Or maybe you are huge coffee fans. Hire a barista to serve your guests amazing coffee after the meal to help perk everyone up and get the party started.

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TABLE PLANS

Very much over looked but a great way of making an impact and ensuring each guest feels special.

Offer a shot glass with each persons name and seat number on it, or make it a gorgeous photo opportunity by writing it on a Gothic style window and ask your florist to dress it. Another popular and cool trend is asking people to take a Polaroid picture of themselves and replace it with their name and table number. It's fun, different and gives you a great alternative to a guest book!

ENTERTAINMENT

Theme bands are still huge this year such as Ragtime, Blues and Motown but if your budget won't stretch to a 5 piece or you're not really into that sort of thing, specialist event companies hire out DJs with bongo drums and saxophone accompaniment to transport your guests to the shores of Ibiza. Funky, cool and a little easier on your Nan's ears! Entertainment can take up a huge part of your budget so when working out how best to spend it, try mentally walking through your day and picture what your guests will be doing and envisage where the flat parts are likely to be. In my experience, this will likely be after the meal and before your evening guests arrive. This can be a bit of an awkward part of the day. Everyone is generally a bit full, tired and needs a freshen up so why not hire a singer or ask your band if they will offer an acoustic set to warm your guests up for the party? Perhaps you have a lot of friends and family coming that haven't properly met one another and you are worried about them mingling or breaking the ice? Have you considered hiring a specialist wedding host to entertain your guests throughout the day and add a fun element to the wedding breakfast with games and quizzes? Wedding hosts have had a bit of a bad rap over the years and can come across as dare I say it cheesy, so when choosing a host, make sure they have a show reel of their work and make sure you have built up a good relationship with them first.

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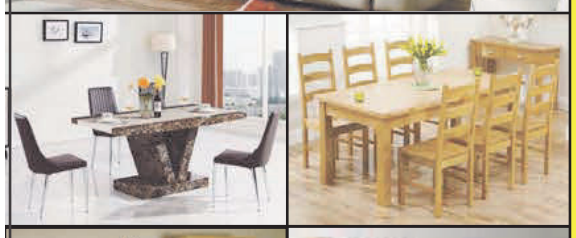

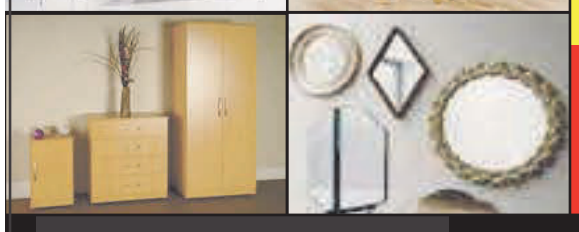

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Poet to bring her new show to The Arts Centre

AWARD-WINNING poet and playwright Lizzie Nunnery, who is from Maghull, will bring her new show to The Arts Centre at Edge Hill University on April 13, inspired by iconoclastic Mersey Sound poet Adrian Henri.

Described as a 'modern day Under Milk Wood', Horny Handed Tons of Soil explores how the landscape of Liverpool 8 - the same area that recently featured on the BBC's hit TV show A House Through Time-has changed over the past 50 years.

Horny Handed Soil blends spoken word, live music and film and is written and performed by Lizzie Nunnery (Winner of UK Theatre's Best New Play award for Narvik), alongside musicians Martin Heslop, Martin Smith and Vidar Norheim.

The show is produced by maverick spoken word outfit Phrased & Confused and Liverpool's Unity Theatre.

Lizzie said: "For a long time I've been performing live as a musician and incorporating spoken word in to my set, but the length of this piece meant I could go much further in crafting a narrative, exploring Liverpool 8 and sparking off the Mersey poets' renderings of the city.

"It's been wonderful working with composers Vidar Norheim, Martin Heslop & Martin Smith alongside videographer Tim Brunsden and designer Laura Lomax to push the piece beyond a poem set to music, turning it in to a cross disciplinary show with all the energy of a gig and the inventiveness of a happening. I like to think Adrian Henri would approve of the experiment!"

Lizzie Nunnery

Comedy tells story of Lennon's banjo

THE countdown is now on until audiences in Liverpool can experience a new stage comedy telling the story of John Lennon's missing childhood banjo.

A mix of fact and fiction, Lennon's Banjo is set in present day Liverpool and features an all-star cast.

It makes its world stage premiere at the city's Epstein Theatre on Tuesday, April 24, continuing through until Saturday, May 5.

The Beatles original drummer Pete Best, will play himself in three special performances of the show's two-week run.

Pete joins an all-star cast featuring a whole host of familiar faces –Eric Potts, Mark Moraghan, Jake Abraham, Lynn Francis, Danny O'Brien, Stephanie Dooley, Alan Stocks, and Roy Carruthers. Pete Best will appear as himself, with Alan Stocks portraying Pete Best in all other performances.

The quest is on to find the holy grail of pop memorabilia– the missing banjo on which John Lennon was first taught to play music by his mother Julia Lennon, who first introduced the youngster to rock and roll.

Mysteriously, the banjo went missing shortly after Julia's death. One thing is certain though, if it did resurface it is estimated to be worth in the region of five million pounds.

Pete Best at the Casbah - Picture by Helen A Jones

When Beatles tour guide Barry Seddon (Eric Potts) finds a letter written by John Lennon, he unearths a clue to solving the greatest mystery in pop history – the whereabouts of Lennon's first musical instrument which has been missing for 60 years. But Barry's loose tongue alerts Texan dealer Travis Lawson (Danny O'Brien) to the priceless relic.

In an attempt to get his hands on the letter and the clues, he persuades his wife Cheryl (Stephanie Dooley) to befriend the hapless tour guide and win his affections. The race to find Lennon's Banjo is on!

Historian heralds exhibition

TV HISTORIAN and broadcaster Michael Wood officially opened the Viking: Rediscover the Legend exhibition last Thursday (March 29) at The Atkinson and called it a "thrilling" display.

The event has come to Southport in partnership with the British Museum and the Yorkshire Museum.

Included in the exhibition is the largest Viking hoard known from Western Europe called the Cuerdale Hoard. It was found near the River Ribble in Lancashire and includes 7,500 coins and 1,200 pieces of bullion. The contents of the hoard weigh about 40kg and are thought to have come about through trading and looting.

There is also information on how local place names such as Ainsdale and Skelmersdale have had a Viking influence.

Among the highlights is a tiny bone plaque made by a Viking in the image of a Viking.

Michael Wood said: "It is a really thrilling exhibition. I have seen it twice on its rounds and it is even better here and would recommend more than one visit.

"The exhibition really conjures up the drama, the violence, the dynamism, the creativity of that extraordinary age. It brings to mind people's stories. The objects are made by people and worn by people and used by people. It looks at the lives of ordinary people as well as the heroes we all love so much.

"Looking at these exhibitions you can imagine the fear that was experienced by those people who saw the Viking invasions.

"The Cuerdale Hoard is one of the highlights of the exhibition. It was found in Lancashire and is the greatest-ever Viking hoard. People can also see the Silverdale Hoard as well. It is absolutely fantastic."

Michael Wood opens the Viking: Rediscover the Legend exhibition

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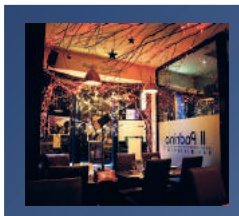

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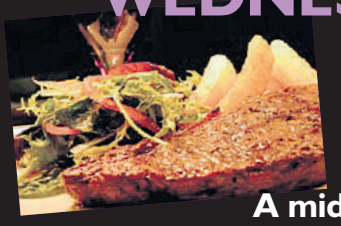

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9, 16, 23, 30 Apr 7, 14, 21, 28 May 11, 18 Jun 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Jul	11, 18, 25 Apr 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 May 13, 20 Jun 4, 11, 18, 25 Jul
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Jun 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	£70	£90
Jul 6		
Sep 7, 14, 21, 28		
Jul 13, 20, 27	£85	£110
Aug 3, 10, 17, 31		

3 NTS Arrive Fridays	1 BEDROOM APARTMENT	2 BEDROOM APARTMENT
Apr 6, 13, 20, 27	£85	£120
May 11, 18		
Jun 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	£105	£145
Jul 6, Sep 7, 14, 21, 28		
May BH 4, 25	£130	£170
Jul 13, 20, 27		
Aug 3, 10, 17, BH 24, 31		

4 NTS Arrive Mondays	1 BEDROOM APARTMENT	2 BEDROOM APARTMENT
Apr 9, 16, 23, 30	£70	£110
May 7, 14		
May 21	£80	£130
Jun 4, 11, 18, 25		
Jul 2, 9, Sep 10, 17, 24		
May BH 28	£130	£180
Jul 16, Sep 3		
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Aug 6, 13, 20, BH 27		

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May 11, 18	£75	May BH 7, 14, 21, BH 28	£149.95
Jun 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	£79.95	Jun 4, 11, 18, 25	£149.95
Jul 6, 13, 20, 27	£89.95	Jul 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	£159.95
Aug 3, 10, 17	£89.95	Aug 6, 13, 20, BH 27	£159.95
Aug 31	£99.95	Sep 3, 10, 17, 24	£159.95

Bay Liberty's Hotel • Central location, close to North Pier • Lift • Car Park (fee) • Entertainment

3 NTS Friday		4 NTS Monday	
Apr 6, 13, 20, 27	£89	Apr 9, 16, 23, 30	£149
May BH 4, 11, 18	£89	May BH 7, 14, 21, BH 28	£149
May BH 25	£89	Jun 4, 11, 18, 25	£149
Jun 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	£89	Jul 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	£149
Jul 6, 13, 20, 27	£89	Aug 6, 13, 20, BH 27	£149
Aug 3, 10, 17, BH 24, 31	£89	Sep 3, 10, 17, 24	£149

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MEN'S SUIT Next slim fit grey suit Leg 32L jacket 38 reg worn once to school prom very good condition £15 01515316205

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LADIES CLOTHES jumpers tops skirts trousers jeans all excellent condition size 14 may deliver £25 ono 01515263851

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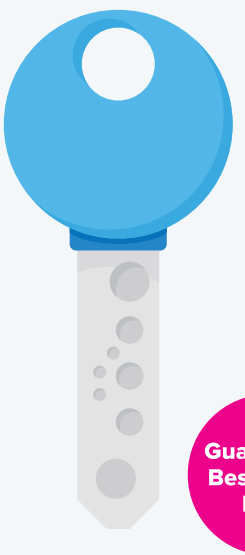
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Announcements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

WILLS MARY

The family would like to thank all Family, Friends and Neighbours for all the many messages of condolence, sympathy cards, and donations for North West Cancer Research received during their recent sad loss of a much loved Mum and Nan. Grateful thanks to Father Bonifac for his kindness and lovely Funeral Mass, and a Special Thanks to Sally Hunter and all the team at MLS Independent Funeral Directors for all their Wonderful care and compassion.

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PILKINGTON GLADYS MAY

The family of the late Gladys May Pilkington wish to express their deep appreciation to those who have offered such kindness, support and messages of sympathy and comfort in our bereavement. We especially wish to thank, all the staff at Ward 15A, Southport Hospital, Rev Sue and all Mum's friends at Emmanuel Church along with MLS Funeral Services. Brian, Beryl, Ruth, Helen and their families.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

JOHNSON GEORGE LEONARD

Pamela would like to express her sincere gratitude to all relatives, friends and neighbours for attending the funeral service and for their help and understanding shown at this sad time. Thank you for the kind messages of support and cards of condolence. Much appreciation is offered to the staff at Asmall Hall Nursing Home for the care Len received over the years and to John Milton for a lovely and comforting service. Many thanks to Derek Crawford and the team at Howard's Funeral Directors for the dignified funeral arrangements.

BASSETT BRIDIE

The family of the late Bridie Bassett would like to thank family and friends for all their support, messages of sympathy and donations to Alzheimer's Society received during the sad loss of a much loved Mum, Gran and Great Gran. Special thanks to Fr. John Heneghan of St. Patricks R.C. Church and Rosemary Purcell for their kind ministrations and everyone involved in the lovely service. Thank you to the staff of Good Companions Care Home for the care Bridie received. Also thank you to M. Rushton Funeral Directors for all the support and funeral arrangements.

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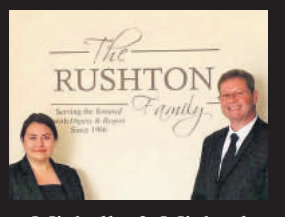

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PRAYERS

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

Never known to fail.

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, faithful Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, O Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother, O Holy Mary Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity.

(Make Request).

There are none that can withstand your powers. Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 Times).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3 times).

Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine.

This prayer must be said for three days and after that the request will be granted and the prayer must be published.

MD

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BIRTHS

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& Partner
KEVIN STOKES

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for Nanny Holroyd
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from all the family
xxxxx

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IN MEMORIAM

TRENWITH VAL

Two years have lapsed since your passsing, there is still a voice missign from our house, a void that remains empty, a love that cannot be replaced. MEmories that will neevr fade, you're always in our thoughts, sleep tight our dearest Vallove
Jon and Susan-Ann

DEATHS

FAWBERT JOAN

27th March 2018
Aged 77 years
Passed away peacefully at Queenscourt Hospice after a long illness.

Beloved Sister of Kath, Bill, Jean and dear Sister-in-law of Margaret and Ed. Much loved Aunt, Great Aunt and Great Great Aunt. Joan will be greatly missed by all her loving family. Service at St John's Parish Church, Birkdale on Tuesday 10th April at 1:15pm followed by interment at Liverpool Road Cemetery. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Queenscourt Hospice. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

SWIFT EVA

27th March 2018
Peacefully at her home in Burscough
aged 89 years

The dearly loved Wife of the late Gerry, loving Mum of Martin and Christopher (deceased) and devoted Nana to all her Grand and Great Grandchildren. Funeral service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Friday 6th April 2018 at 10:00am. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for North West Cancer Research. All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick. Tel: 01695 722122/720012

DEATHS

MOYNIHAN SHEILA
of Aughton
Passed away Friday 23rd March 2018
Aged 87 years

Funeral Service at West Lancashire Crematorium on Monday 9th April at 4pm. Family Flowers only please, but donations if desired to Medecins Sans Forntieres Further enquires to Cookson Tyrer Funeral Directors, Burscough Tel 01704 897770

WALSH TONY (Walshy)
Peacefully passed away in Hospital
aged 62 years
on 30/03/2018

Much loved Dad, Grandad, Brother & Uncle will be sadly missed by all. Funeral service to take place on Thursday 12th April at 3:20pm at Southport Crematorium. Family flowers only by request but family are gratefully receiving donations for Clare House Childrens Hospice. Further enquiries please to Co-Op Funeral Care, 22c Wigan Road, Ormskirk Tel: 01695 577244

CAMPBELL ANTHONY GUEST

25th March 2018
Aged 81 years

Beloved Husband of the late Julia also dearly loved Dad, Father-In-Law and Grandad. A Requiem Mass will be offered on Monday 9th April 2018 at St Peter's and St Pauls Church, Mawdesley at 10am. Followed by Interment in the church yard. No flowers by request, donations if desired to the R.N.L.I. C/o and all enquiries to W Banks Sefton Villa, Sefton Road, Orrell, WN5 8UP Tel: 01695 622 272

To place a family announcement please call 01704 392392

To place a family announcement please call 01704 392392

DEATHS

CROMBLEHOLME THOMAS (TOM)
Passed away peacefully on 27th March 2018

Devoted Husband to Vera and dearly loved Dad to Helen, Joan, David, Thomas, Roy, Ian and Brian. Special Father-In-Law to Jane, Cathy, Pauline, Shirley, Steve and the late John and dear Brother-In-Law to Maggie. Loving Grandad to Danielle, Liam, Michael, Tommy, Dettie, Bruce, James, Lauren, Paul, Sharon, Sylvia, Barry, Clare and Amanda. Great Grandad to Samantha, Taylor, Mason, David, Jack, Ellie, Kieran, Isabella and his soon to be born Great Grand Daughter. He will be missed by all those who loved him. Funeral Service at St Thomas Church, Lydiate at 11am on Monday 9th April followed by cremation at West Lancashire Crematorium. Family flowers only please but donations are welcomed for The Stroke Association c/o Graham J Clegg, Independent Funeral Service, 7 Dover Road, Maghull, L31 5JB Tel: 0151 520 3330

HUGHES CATHERINE MARY ANN

27th March 2018
Peacefully at Birch Green Care Home, Skelmersdale
aged 85 years

The dearly loved Wife of the late Norman, loving Mum of James, Alisdair, Norman and Fiona, devoted Grandma of Janine, Stuart, Emma, Calum, Tucker, Ben, Robbie, Ryan and Natalie and all her Great Grandchildren. Funeral service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Wednesday 11th April 2018 at 1:45pm. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for Dementia UK. All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick. Tel: 01695 722122/720012

DEATHS

MAWDSLEY JOYCE ELIZABETH
of Halsall.
Born 19th May 1936
Died 27th March 2018

Reunited with her loving Husband Alan, Mother of Angela and Paul, Nanna of Louise, Sean, Adam and Benjamin, Great Nanna of Amelia. She will be loved and missed by all. Funeral Service at St. Cuthbert's Church, Halsall, on Thursday 12th April 2018 at 11.15am, followed by committal at Southport Crematorium. Family flowers only please, donations if so desired for the Alzheimer's Society. Donations and further enquiries please to Sally Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20, Moss Delph Lane, Aughton, Ormskirk, Tele: 01695 424888.

FYLES JOHN

After a short illness peacefully in hospital on 22nd March 2018
aged 86 years

Dearly beloved son of the late William and Margaret and much loved brother of the late Lilian. John will be sadly missed by all his family, friends and all who knew him. Funeral Service and Committal will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Wednesday 11th April 2018 at 10am Family flowers only by request please but the family are receiving donations for Queenscourt Hospice. Further enquiries please to Cookson Tyrer Funeral Directors, 2 Smithy Walk, Burscough, Lancashire L40 5UU Tel 01704 897770.

DEATHS

ROSE JESSIE WINIFRED (NEE KEEFE)
29TH MARCH 2018
Peacefully at Aaron Crest Nursing Home Skelmersdale, formerly of Liverpool

Wife of the late Leonard Rose. Much loved and missed Mum of Michael, John, Robert, Stephen and partners. Adored Nan of Steven, Kirsty, Robert, Emma, Danielle and Great Grandma to Sophie. Funeral details to follow. Any further enquiries to Skelmersdale Funeral Services.

JONES ANTHONY (TONY)

14th March 2018
Aged 57 years

Loving Son of the late Ronnie and Ann, cherished Brother, Uncle, Brother In Law and Friend to many. Will be sadly missed by all family and friends. Funeral service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Friday 6th April at 10:45am. All enquiries Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel: 01695 559868

PEEL ERIC

On 23rd March 2018
Peacefully in Hospital
Aged 85 years

Loving Husband of the late Carole, devoted Dad of David, Diane, Wendy, Caroline and Shaun, cherished Grandad, Great-Grandad and Great-Great-Grandad of all his Grandchildren, will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Monday 9th April at 1:45pm, family flowers only please by request, donations if desired for The British Heart Foundation. All enquiries Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel: 01695 559868

DEATHS

WESTHEAD JOHN (JACK)
18th March 2018
Peacefully surrounded by his loving family
aged 82 years

Loving Husband of the late June, devoted Dad of Donna and Mandy, cherished Grandad and Great Grandpa of all his Grandchildren, dear Father in law of Ian and a friend to many, will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service will take place at Southport Crematorium on Tuesday 10th April at 2.00 pm, family flowers only please by request, donations if desired to Alzheimer's Society. All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel: 01695 559868

HALLETT JOHN EDWARD

26th March 2018
Peacefully at Home
Surrounded by his family

Much Loved Husband of Irene Loved Dad of Stephen, Pam and Neil. Funeral Service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Pippin Street Burscough on Thursday 5th April at 1.00pm. Family flowers only please but donations if desired for Woodlands Hospice c/o Graham J Clegg Funeral Service 7 Dover Road Maghull L31 5JB Tel 0151 520 3330

GILMOUR RONNIE

25th March 2018
aged 86 years

Beloved Husband of Anna, much loved Father of Joanne, Fee and Mike, Father-in-law of David and Sonia and Grandfather of Megan and Katie. Funeral Service at St Mary's Church Aughton on Friday 6th April at 2.45pm. Followed by cremation at West Lancs Crematorium. Donations please to Dementia UK. Enquiries to Devonport Funeral Services Tel: 01695 731199

DEATHS

HODGES MARGARET

27th March 2018
Peacefully at
Beaconview Care Home, Skelmersdale
aged 97 years

The dearly loved Wife of the late Jim, loving Mum of Frank & Pat, devoted Gran of Paul & Karen and Amanda & Michael and Great Gran to Thomas, James, Ben, Oliver and Emily. Funeral service at St Paul's Church, Skelmersdale on Tuesday 10th April 2018 at 10:00am followed by cremation at St Helens Crematorium. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for Beaconview. All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick. Tel: 01695 722122/720012

WRIGHT JOSEPH (JOE)

Of your charity pray for the repose of the soul of Joseph
who passed away on 25th March 2018
aged 80 years

Dearly loved husband of Pat. Brother of Paddy, Mary, the late Tom, Paschal, Oliver, Ann, Vera and Michael, and a much loved uncle. 'Will be sadly missed' Requiem Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians R.C Church, Hesketh Lane, Tarleton on Friday 6th April 2018 at 10.30am followed by committal at Burscough Crematorium. Friends and family to meet at the church. Family flowers only please, donations, if desired, to Children With Cancer UK, c/o The Funeral Director, Neal Buckley Tarleton Funeral Home, 49 Church Road Tarleton Tel: 01772 301700

PUBLIC NOTICES

Department for Transport

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

The Secretary of State gives notice of an Order made under Section 247 of the above Act entitled "The Stopping up of Highways (North West) (No. 24) Order 2018" authorising the stopping up of three lengths of the unnamed footpath lying to the west of Evenwood Court and to the east of Northway (informally on the line of old Houghtons Lane) at Skelmersdale, in the Borough of West Lancashire. This is to enable development as permitted by West Lancashire Borough Council under reference 2017/0663/FUL.

Copies of the Order may be obtained, free of charge, from the Secretary of State, National Transport Casework Team, Tyneside House, Skinnerburn Road, Newcastle Business Park, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 7AR or nationalcasework@dft.gsi.gov.uk (quoting NATTRAN/NW/S247/3196) and may be inspected during normal opening hours at Skelmersdale Library, Southway, Skelmersdale WN8 6NL.

Any person aggrieved by or desiring to question the validity of or any provision within the Order, on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the above Act or that any requirement or regulation made has not been complied with, may, within 6 weeks of **04 April 2018** apply to the High Court for the suspension or quashing of the Order or of any provision included.

D Hoggins, Casework Manager

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NOTICE OF MAKING
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(BRIARS LANE, COURSE LANE, LOWRY HILL LANE, NEWBURGH, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH) (REVOCATION AND INTRODUCTION OF 40 MPH SPEED RESTRICTIONS) ORDER 2018

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on 28 March 2018 Lancashire County Council made the above Traffic Regulation Order under Section 84 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, the effect of which will be to:

1. Revoke "The District Council Of West Lancashire (Briars Lane And Lowry Hill Lane, Burscough And Lathom) A5209 (40 M.P.H. Speed Limit) Order 1983" as set out below;
a. 40mph Speed Restriction, Briars Lane And Lowry Hill Lane, from a point 34 metres west of the centre point of Morton House Bridge to a point 165 metres west of the centre line of Moss Bridge Lane;
2. Introduce a 40mph speed restriction in the following lengths of road;
a. Briars Lane, Newburgh, from a point 135 metres south east of the centreline of the junction with Wheat Lane in a south easterly direction to its junction with Lowry Hill Lane;
b. Course Lane, Newburgh, from its junction with Lowry Hill Lane in a south easterly direction to a point 246 metres south east of the centreline of the junction with Back Lane;
c. Lowry Hill Lane, Newburgh, the entire length.

This Order will come into force on the 06 April 2018. A copy of the Order, and all other relevant documents may be inspected during normal office hours at the offices of West Lancashire Borough Council, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 2DF, and at the offices of the Director of Corporate Services, Lancashire County Council, County Hall, PO Box 78, Preston, Lancashire, PR1 8XJ, quoting ref: LSG4/894.3209/ML2

Laura Sales, Director of Corporate Services
04 April 2018

www.lancashire.gov.uk
Lancashire County Council

PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

2018/0003/COU Change of use of barn to pet crematorium at Lime Tree Barn, 59 Winifred Lane, Aughton.
The application affects a Conservation Area.

2018/0041/FUL Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of two new residential dwellings. Conversion and additions to existing outbuilding to create a new dwelling, with associated works at 7 Church Road, Rufford.
The application affects a Conservation Area.
This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.

2018/0218/FUL Replacement of an existing window 900mm W x 1500mm H with new double glazed window 4630mm W x 1500mm H to front elevation of existing private dwelling at 16 Granville Park, Aughton.
The application affects a Conservation Area.

2018/0283/FUL Single-storey extension to side at Westview, 14 Sandy Lane, Newburgh.
The application affects a Conservation Area.

The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application no. Any comments made will be available for public inspection.

Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development
In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI — Dated: 4th April 2018
Director of Development and Regeneration — PDNOT991

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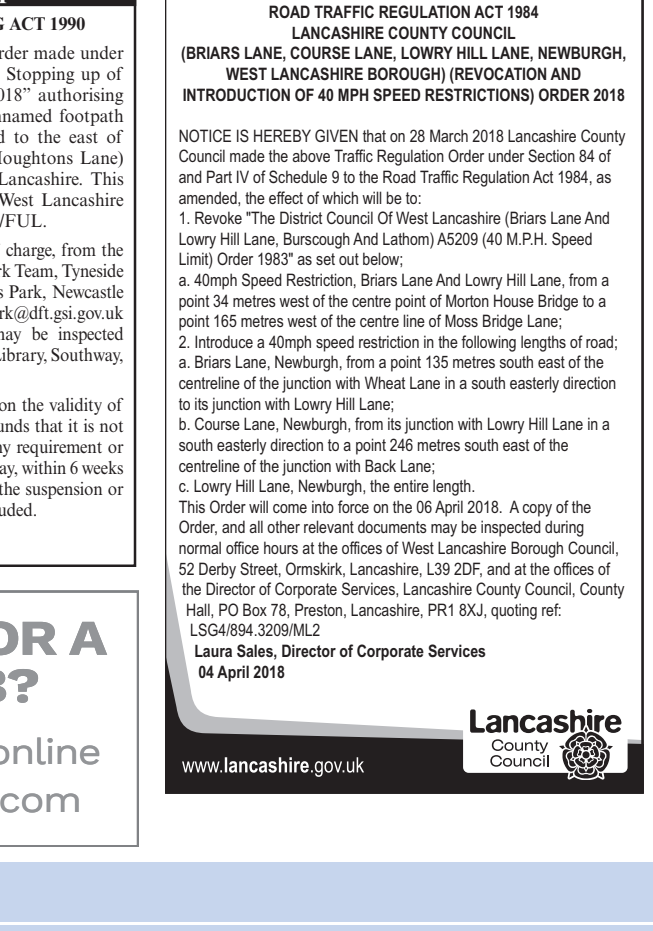

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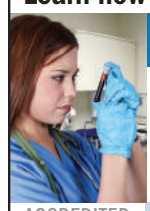
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We are currently advertising for two roles within our Clinical Team

Bank Healthcare Assistants – Queenscourt at Home Team
As and when required; £16,931 pro-rata
You will deliver a range of patient care duties predominately in the community. You will be expected to work unsupervised, with confidence as a lone worker in the patients' home.
You must be able to demonstrate empathy and communicate effectively about death and dying with patients, families and health professionals. The applicants must have experience of working within the community and possess NVQ Level 3 in Care or equivalent.

Healthcare Assistant – Inpatient Unit
Permanent; 21hpw; £16,931 - £20,049 pro-rata
The hours include shift patterns including internal rotation to nights. NVQ Level 3 in Care or equivalent required, experience in palliative care preferred. Applicants should be able to prove a genuine interest in palliative care and possess excellent communication skills.

CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS: Sunday 15th April 2018

For further information or to arrange an informal visit, please contact Sister Aimee Oni on 01704 517 923 regarding the Inpatient role and Sister Julie Davidson on 01704 517929 regarding the Bank roles in the Community.
Applications forms and job descriptions are available from www.queenscourt.org.uk/jobs

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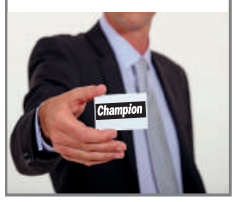

Office Assistant - Administration Team

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JC&A Solicitors are a well-established Personal Injury Firm who are seeking an enthusiastic candidate to join our Administration Team on a fixed term contract.

The role includes data input, file closing, post, general office duties and other tasks as required. No previous experience is necessary as full training and support will be given, however higher education qualifications would be preferable, but not essential.

Please submit your c.v for the attention of Sue McDermott to **info@jcasolicitors.co.uk**

If you do not hear from us within 10 days, please assume that your application has been unsuccessful.

CLASS TEACHER X2

Moorside C P Academy, Skelmersdale

Grade	Main Pay Scale
Term	Full Time
Perm / Temp	Permanent after successful probationary period
Required	From 01/09/2018
Closing Date	20/04/2018 at 12:00pm

Moorside CP Academy governors, staff and pupils are looking to appoint two highly motivated, dedicated and enthusiastic class teachers to join the outstanding team at Moorside CP Academy. We are seeking outstanding teachers who are passionate about teaching and learning where every child achieves in a safe and nurturing environment. You will have high expectations for all of our pupils and ensure that all are challenged and motivated to succeed. You will understand the importance of being accountable for children's progress and you will work with colleagues to further contribute to the development of Moorside pupils as caring young members of the school and wider community.

The successful candidate will:
- have high expectations of teaching and learning
- be committed to raising standards in all areas of the curriculum
- be supportive of the nurturing SEAL approach to behaviour management
- work collaboratively and build positive relationships with all stakeholders
- be creative, innovative and forward thinking
- be committed to improving the outcomes and life chances of young people
- be committed to ensure that all children are safe from harm and a working understanding of up to date safeguarding issues

We can offer:
- vibrant children who enjoy school and learning
- a committed, forward thinking staff and Governing Body
- supportive parents
- a well resourced outstanding school
- continual professional development opportunities
- a supportive, respectful and friendly team

Applications from NQT's are welcomed as well as applications from experienced teachers.
Essential Qualifications: Qualified Teacher Status.
Desirable Experience: Working in Key Stage 2.

Visits to the school are welcome on the following dates:
10/04/2018 4pm OR 11/04/2018 4pm.

Please contact Jane Lee (School Business Manager) to arrange a visit, for application details or for further information on 01695 722931.

Billing Clerk - Credit Control Department

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JC&A Solicitors are a well-established Personal Injury Firm who are seeking enthusiastic candidates to join our Credit Control Department on a fixed term contract.

No previous experience is necessary as full training and support will be given, however a degree would be beneficial but not essential.
You will be trained to prepare Bills of Costs for legal services.
The role will also involve assisting the credit control team with administrative duties which will include contact with clients.

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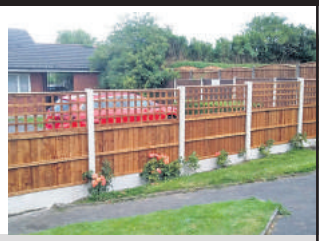

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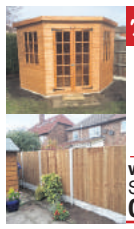

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Beeb's juggernaut could end up being pulled over

Life On Cars
DAVID SIMISTER
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SO Whitehall bureaucracy has succeeded where the Argentine government, the Mexican embassy and the Daily Mail have failed. Even a late-night platter of cold meat – served in a North Yorkshire hotel, of course – tried to finish Top Gear off, but if you believe the tabloids then it's a dispute over building houses that will finally force the Beeb's motoring juggernaut to pull over for good.

For those of you haven't had your head buried in the newspapers over the Easter weekend then it essentially boils down to this; the site where both the TG studios and the infamous test track are located have been earmarked for more than 1000 new homes, and last week Housing Secretary Sajid Javid ruled in the developers' favour. Perhaps in a few years' time Surrey's first-time buyers will be snapping three-bed semis in Hammerhead Close and Gambon Grove. But even if it does go ahead, will it kill Top Gear off? Not a chance. In fact, I reckon it's exactly the shot in the arm that the show needs.

I reckon that with every series under the Harris/Le Blanc/Reid premiership the show's steadily getting stronger, by gorging itself on a diet of properly done, serious car reviews. The bits that are funny are the bits that don't feel forced; the hilarious segment with the V8 tractor worked because Matt Le Blanc really does have an infectious enthusiasm for farm machinery, owning four tractors in real life. And watching Chris Harris performing all those balletic mid-corner routines is wonderful because he's clearly in his element doing it.

But the bits that really grate are the ones the trio have inherited from the old era. Specifically, The Stig, who feels like a groupie who's outstayed their welcome. If Top Gear loses its test track it'll be a great opportunity to relocate the show, keep the good bits and dump those that started wearing thin, including the tame driver.

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Linnets facing two huge local derbies

MOST believe Skelmersdale are probably safe from relegation, but some nervous fans will hope for one more win.

Meanwhile, Burscough need to start winning soon if they are to get back on the safety road in the North West Counties Premier Division.

This weekend Skelmersdale are at home to mid-table Droylsden on Saturday, April 7 at 3pm.

They are then at home on Monday, April 9 against Ossett Albion at 7.45pm.

Burscough play two local derbies over the next week. On Friday, April 6 when they travel to City of Liverpool at 7.45pm, then repeat the act when they are away to Bootle on Tuesday, April 10, at 7.45pm.

Those nervous few at Skem will be looking upon the Droylsden and Ossett games as crucial.

Dave Powell's team are now eight points above bottom placed AFC Goole with a better goal difference.

So it is very strongly in Skem's favour especially when you consider that Goole have only won six games of 36 league games so far.

Burscough's season has turned into a very interesting one. Last Tuesday they won their Macron Cup quarter-final against Northwich Victoria 2-1, so keep their foot on the silverware trail.

In the semi-final they have arguably got the best draw they could ask for in Irlam, who are only three points ahead of them in the league.

Both the City of Liverpool and Bootle matches are going to be tough ones for the Linnets, both teams still have hopes of making the promotion play-offs, so they won't be doing Burscough any favours.

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Skem keeper Chris Cheetham saves under pressure. Pictures by John Hirst.

Skem pay the price for failing to take chances

Liam Davies wins a header.

Ossett Albion 3
Skelmersdale United 1

A COMBINATION of bad luck and poor finishing saw Skelmersdale leave Ossett Albion empty handed, *writes Neil Leatherbarrow.*

Skelmersdale had started on the front foot and in only the third minute Liam Davies found Tunde Owolabi with a sweeping diagonal ball, but a superbly timed tackle by home number two Joe Wilkinson put an end to that threat.

Ossett had their first attempt on 25 minutes. A high ball was headed down to leading goal scorer Adam Priestley but he shot wide of the far post.

Ten minutes before the break Bakkor saw his shot deflected off target then Priestley went close at the other end, but Fleming saved Skem with a goal-line clearance.

Albion grabbed the lead on 51 minutes when Scott Metcalfe came in at pace and put a shot across Skem keeper Chris Cheetham into the far corner.

The goal gave Albion a momentum that they didn't have in the first-half and now they pressed Skelmersdale.

Albion struck again in the 74th minute, substitute Marcus Day latching onto a loose ball and scoring from close range.

It might have been a different story but for a terrific reaction save by Albion's Bennett in the 77th minute. Bakkor and Barrigan set up Darr and his header was going under the crossbar until Bennett stuck out a hand to block the ball and grasped it at the second attempt.

When Phil Mooney fouled Priestley on 83 minutes for a penalty to the home side, it was effectively all over when Priestley sent Cheetham the wrong way from the spot to make it 3-0.

Skelm pulled back a late goal via Darr and 3-0 would have been an injustice.

Albion had been marginally the better outfit, a factor being their strength and experience in the blustery weather on the soft surface. Skelmersdale didn't play badly and given a bit of luck might even have won.

#	Team	Pl	Pts
18.	Ramsbottom United	33	35
19.	Radcliffe Borough	34	34
20.	Skelmersdale United	36	32
21.	Brighouse Town	34	28
22.	Goole AFC	36	24

Skelmersdale are third from bottom in the Evo-Stik North table

Ekpolo double isn't enough as Burscough suffer defeat

Congleton Town 4
Burscough 2

BURSCOUGH twice took the lead but couldn't keep out their opposition and conceded four in a spirited defeat, *writes Neil Leatherbarrow.*

On 18 minutes Prince Ekpolo went close for Burscough but put a good opportunity over the home crossbar.

Expolo didn't miss in the 24th minute, his shot from just inside the box beating home goalkeeper Danny Eccles to give Burscough the lead.

It was always going to be an end to end game and after Ekpolo almost scored again Congleton responded.

Burscough goalkeeper Josh Samberg saving from Will Hasler-Cregg before the hosts won a free-kick. Luke Edwards hoisted the ball into the goalmouth and Morris headed home from close range.

Burscough went on the offensive and almost netted before they did on 35 minutes.

Eccles made a good save from a Cummings shot but the rebound fell to Ekpolo who got his second of the afternoon to make it 2-1 to Burscough. As the interval beckoned Congleton won a succession of corners and from one experienced centre-forward Steve Foster was tripped, a penalty was given and David Short fired home the spot kick to make it 2-2 at half-time.

Congleton came out of the dressing room looking sharp and they crucially scored inside three minutes. Former Chorley and Salford man Foster finding the net from an acute angle.

The Burscough efforts to equalise came ultimately at a cost. Congleton counter-attacked in added time and substitute Declan Fletcher scored from 18 yards.

Burscough will probably need another 11 or 12 points to ensure safety, they have nine games left to achieve it in.

	Burscough	35	35
	Maine Rd	35	32
	AFC Liverpool	34	30
	AFC Darwen	31	15
	Barnton	38	12

Burscough remain three points off the bottom four

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SKELMERSDALE
Champion
4 April 2018 Vol 25 • Issue 14 www.champnews.com

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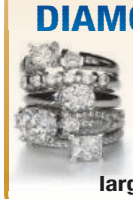
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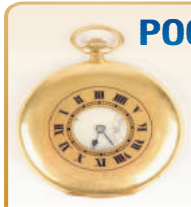
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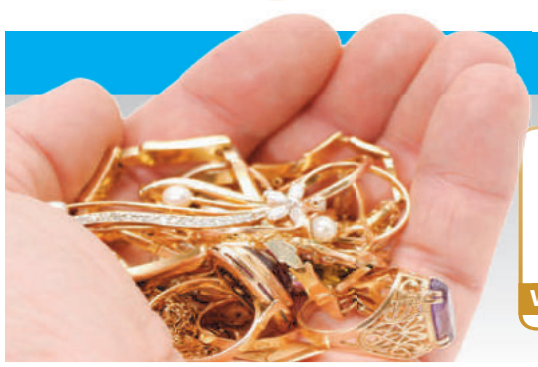

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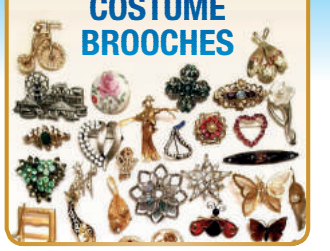

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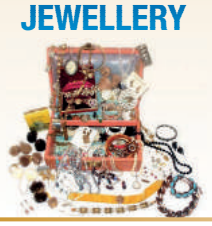

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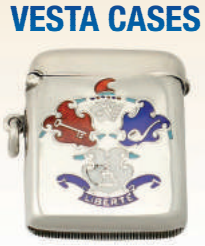

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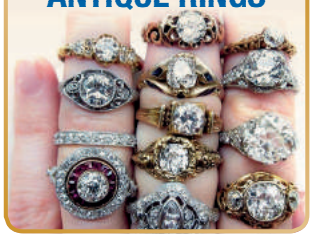

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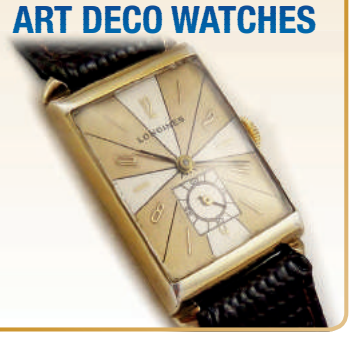

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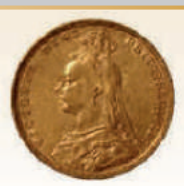

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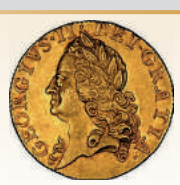

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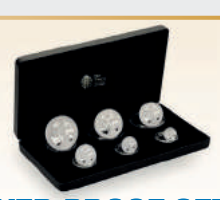

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